

# **IOWA BIRD LIFE**

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## **IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**



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*The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.*

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# **A Window of Opportunity: Measurement and Prevention of Migratory Bird Window Collisions in Iowa City**

*Elliot Stalter*

## **ABSTRACT**

During migration seasons, urban light pollution lures nocturnal migrants to their deaths from bird-window collisions (BWCs). Even those birds that manage to land safely frequently collide with sheet-glass windows the following morning. As urbanization inexorably increases, so too will BWCs increase unless bird-friendly policies become normative.

This study sought to establish the significance of BWCs in Iowa City during the fall migration by collecting alternate day avian injury/fatality data around the perimeters of five University of Iowa buildings. From 27 August through 3 November 2018, we conducted 35 surveys of each site and found evidence of 94 birds thought to have been injured or killed by BWCs, representing at least 32 species within 13 families. The study's data set can be used to encourage light reduction in currently existing structures and to recommend bird-friendly design of future buildings slated for construction within and beyond the rapidly growing Iowa City metropolitan area.

## **INTRODUCTION**

A recent meta-analysis of twenty-three bird-window collision (BWC) studies estimates that between 365 and 988 million birds are killed annually as a result of BWCs in the United States alone (Loss et al. 2014), supporting an earlier study which gave a high estimate of 1 billion birds (Klem 2009). The two broadest categories of migrant BWCs are nocturnal and diurnal collisions (Spear 2017). Nocturnal collisions are thought to occur because urban lights interfere with natural avian navigation mechanisms, causing individuals to alter course and fly towards the lights. Even birds that survive the night often find themselves trapped in an urban landscape the following morning. The ensuing collisions, combined with daytime collisions in residential or rural areas, comprise the diurnal BWCs. Because large numbers of young, inexperienced birds join their parents for their first migration in the fall each year, migratory BWCs are almost three times as frequent in the fall as in the spring (Hager and Cosen-tino 2014).

The Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) was founded in Toronto in 1993 to bring nocturnal collisions to national attention (FLAP Canada 2018). A study for FLAP (Evans Ogden 2002) found light emission to be a more significant factor in determining the magnitude of fatal collisions and bird entrapments than building size or height. Weather was found to be the most important factor in collision risk since cloud cover and precipitation cause birds to fly lower, intensifying their exposure and



attraction to urban light pollution (Evans Ogden 2002).

While particularly hazardous, BWCs are more easily preventable than almost all other threats to avian populations. Reducing light emissions and performing singular structural alterations can substantially reduce collisions (Evans Ogden 2002, Milius 2014). Instituting preventative measures also carries ancillary benefits in the interests of both humans and nature: in addition to saving birds, reduced electricity consumption saves money and reduces carbon dioxide emissions (Evans Ogden 2002).

Urbanization is rapidly increasing globally. On the University of Iowa campus alone, a new art museum, psychological and brain sciences building, and pharmacy building are currently being designed or built, and a recreation center and new music, art, and engineering buildings have been constructed within the last five years. Perhaps even more critical is the rapid expansion of the non-university Iowa City metropolitan area. The year 2018 alone has seen the completion of several high-rise buildings, most notably those at 7 and 435 South Linn Street. These join Hotel Vitro, the Clinton Street Hilton Garden Inn, and many other tall, recently built structures to create a higher and brighter beacon to migratory birds. The threat to these species is further heightened by the semi-wooded environments in which many of the new buildings are situated (Hager et al. 2017). We now have a crucial window of opportunity within which to establish bird-friendly practices in Iowa City and across North America.



Figure 1. Survey sites and associated abbreviations. a) Voxman Music Building (VMB), b) Art Building West (ABW), c) Biomedical Sciences Complex (BSC), d) Catlett Hall (CH), e) Hancher Auditorium (HA).



## STUDY AREA AND METHODS

We collected data at five university-owned survey sites (Figure 1): Voxman Music Building (VMB), Art Building West (ABW), the Biomedical Sciences Complex (BSC, defined as the Biomedical Research Building, Pappajohn Biomedical Discovery Building, and Medical Education Research Facility, which adjoin into a courtyard), Catlett Hall (CH), and Hancher Auditorium (HA). We selected sites for their relatively high potential to cause BWCs. All five contain substantial amounts of sheet glass and produce relatively high levels of light emissions throughout the night, making them particularly significant threats to nocturnal migrants (Hager et al. 2017, Evans Ogden 2002). Additionally, all but VMB are located in semi-wooded areas and 60% are located near the Iowa River (ABW, CH, and HA), substantially increasing the likelihood of both nocturnal and diurnal collisions (Hager et al. 2017). The average building age at the inception of the study was 4.5 years, making the sites representational of current campus architectural trends as an aggregate.

We informed campus security and the University of Iowa facilities management staff of the data collection period and general protocol before the start of the study so that building occupants would be aware of its occurrence. The first day of data collection served to establish a baseline for each site, with significantly decayed carcasses not being included in data analysis as they were deemed to have originated well outside of the study period.

Data collection ran from 27 August to 3 November 2018, the period of the year during which approximately 90% of the Chicago Bird Collision Monitors (2014) BWCs occurred during the 2010–2014 fall migrations. Data collection occurred on alternate days during this period because studies in the upper Midwestern United States indicate that bird carcasses are generally not removed by scavengers until a minimum of three days have elapsed (Hager et al. 2012). Jamie Tigges and Katy Silber, two University of Iowa students who had each previously assisted college professors in a number of ornithological research studies, collected the majority of the data.

A previously developed standardized protocol (Hager and Cosentino 2014) served as the basis for the data collection guidelines used in the present study. Collections took place in the afternoon for the first two weeks of the study since it has been shown that this collection time allows for maximum accumulation of carcasses throughout the day while avoiding data bias resulting from primarily nocturnal scavenger activity (Hager et al. 2017, Klem 1989). However, we shifted data collection to the morning for the remainder of the study as it was determined that diurnal carcass removal, both by noncompliant staff and unaware members of the public, was a disruptive factor in the study.

To perform surveys, collectors slowly walked around each site's ground floor perimeter, as well as along any public-accessible balconies or interior spaces with views of exterior surfaces above the ground floor, while scanning for avian forms. We thoroughly searched vegetation beneath windows and areas beneath trash receptacles and benches. Any bird carcass found within two meters of a building window was assumed to have died from injuries/trauma sustained from a BWC and was recorded along with its site, the date, and the time at which the survey at the site began. We

noted each bird's specific location within the site at which it was found on a site map. An injured bird was defined as any that seemed unable to fly for extended distances. We left injured birds for a few hours to enable recovery and returned in the afternoon, by which time they had invariably either left the area or died in the interim. Partial carcasses were defined as any assemblage of feathers that contained bird bones and/or muscle tissue. These were considered to be evidence of a BWC and recorded only if found within two meters of a building wall. Feather piles were treated similarly. We identified each bird to species whenever possible and photographed all finds. We coordinated with groundskeepers throughout the study to ensure that no avian remains were removed before we were able to identify and photograph them.

## RESULTS

Between 27 August and 3 November 2018, collectors found evidence of 94 distinct birds belonging to at least 32 species representing 13 families, including 10 species of Parulidae and 8 species of Passerellidae (Table 1). Three birds were found outside the study period (Northern Waterthrush [BSC, 20 August 2018], American Tree Sparrow [HA, 8 November 2018], and Song Sparrow [BSC, 16 November 2018]). We found four birds on the first day but discounted them because their stage of decay indicated death well before the start of the study. Including these carcasses, we found 101 birds of 35 species thought to have been injured or killed by BWCs.

Of the 94 individuals included in the study's data analysis, 76 were identifiable to species and 5 of the remaining 18 individuals were determinable to the level of the taxonomic family (Table 1). At the time of discovery, 69 were present as full carcasses, 4 as partial carcasses, 9 as feather piles, and 12 as injured birds. The locations of the included birds were as follows: 2 at CH (2%), 4 at ABW (4%), 10 at the VMB (11%), 24 at HA (26%), and 54 at the BSC (57%). Nashville Warbler (Figure 3) was the species found most often (N=8). Common Yellowthroat (Figure 4), Tennessee Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow (Figure 5) were found equally and second most frequently (N=6), and Ruby-throated Hummingbird (N=5) was found third most frequently. All but 3 birds of 1 species (House Sparrow) were migratory.

We found birds on 30 of the 35 surveys within the study period, with an average of 2.7 birds found per day. The highest number of birds found on a single collection day was 11 birds on 6 September. Other notably high counts included 8 birds on 10 September and 7 birds each on 4 and 18 October (Figure 2).

## DISCUSSION

This study found the magnitude of BWCs occurring in Iowa City during the fall migration to be substantial both in terms of the number of birds and diversity of species affected, especially considering the small number of survey sites (selected out of several dozen city structures likely to pose equal or greater threat to migratory birds) included in the study. Additionally, two factors almost certainly lowered the number of birds found during the data collection period. First, it was not always possible to view all horizontal surfaces within two meters of site perimeters since some windows overlooked inaccessible areas. Second, although we communicated with grounds-



**Table 1. All full and partial bird carcasses, feather piles, and injured birds found within two meters of the five survey sites between 27 August and 3 November 2018, organized by family and species (Note: A feather pile found at the BSC on 18 October belonged to a member of a distinct taxonomic family [indicated by substantially larger feather size] and has thus been added to the species and family totals represented in the study).**

Family	Species	Individuals Found (N)
Columbidae	Mourning Dove	1
Caprimulgidae	Common Nighthawk	3
Trochilidae	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	5
Picidae	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
Vireonidae	unidentified	1
Sittidae	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
Certhiidae	Brown Creeper	1
Regulidae	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2
Turdidae	Swainson's Thrush	3
	Hermit Thrush	1
Bombycillidae	Cedar Waxwing	1
Passeridae	House Sparrow	3
Passerellidae	Chipping Sparrow	1
	Field Sparrow	1
	Song Sparrow	2
	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
	Swamp Sparrow	2
	White-throated Sparrow	6
	White-crowned Sparrow	1
	Dark-eyed Junco	4
	unidentified	2
Parulidae	Ovenbird	4
	Louisiana Waterthrush	1
	Black-and-white Warbler	2
	Tennessee Warbler	6
	Nashville Warbler	8
	Common Yellowthroat	6
	Magnolia Warbler	1
	Bay-breasted Warbler	1
	Blackburnian Warbler	2
	Chestnut-sided Warbler	2
	unidentified	2
Unidentified	unidentified	13
<b>Total:</b>	<b>32 species</b>	<b>94</b>

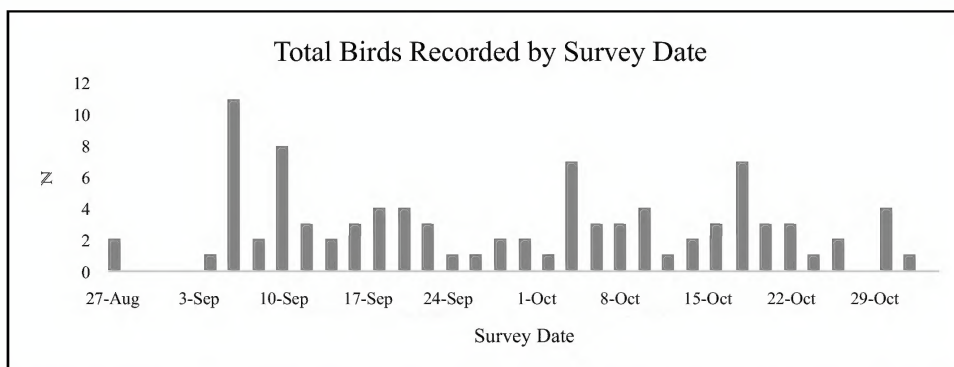


Figure 2. Bar graph showing the total number of birds found on each survey date within the study period, excluding four birds found on the first day deemed to have been present before its commencement.

keeping staff throughout the study in an effort to eliminate human interference, certain results (such as the extremely low number of birds found at CH despite its size and considerable nocturnal lighting) raised questions about the compliance of the grounds keeping staff at CH and ABW. We also witnessed people other than groundskeepers removing carcasses. These removals may have been performed semi-regularly by individuals unaware of the study.

Our results differed in several respects from those obtained in a review conducted by Sordahl et al. (2017) of BWCs within the Sherman A. Hoslett Museum of Natural History's records of opportunistically salvaged birds. The review approximately quadrupled the number of BWCs and more than doubled the number of families represented in our study since it contained records collected in all seasons for 36 years. These factors, in conjunction with the greater variety of habitat types (many of which may have been more suitable for resident species than those surveyed in our study) also largely account for the greater number of total species (73) and non-migratory species (16) found in their study. The number of BWCs found per year reported by Sordahl et al. was predictably much lower (10.8 BWCs/year) than that found in the single migratory period investigated in our study because of the opportunistic salvaging methods used to generate the relevant records within the Hoslett Museum. However, our results were generally similar to those presented by Sordahl et al., which included records of all species found within the collection period of our study. Additionally, all but one (Nashville Warbler) of our five most common spe-



Figure 3. Nashville Warbler, Biomedical Sciences Complex, Johnson, 30 October 2018. Photograph by Katie Silber.



cies were among the six species found to be involved in BWCs most frequently by Sordahl et al. Findings from other migratory BWC studies suggest that the spikes in BWCs on the four dates listed above likely resulted from high-density migration over Iowa City during particular weather conditions that bring migrating flocks closer to city lights (Evans Ogden 2002).

One of the primary purposes of this study was to provide a body of data to be used to effect lighting policy changes in existing structures, as well as to promote bird-friendly architectural trends in future building projects. An article about the study that appeared on the front-page of the *Daily Iowan* (the University of Iowa student newspaper) in November received a considerable amount of community attention and garnered unprompted interest from American Bird Conservancy and FLAP personnel, both of whom will be consulted in the near future regarding how to best effect change in BWC-related policies. To this end, the study's findings will also be presented to the University of Iowa Sustainability Charter Committee. We hope this meeting will be able to provide tailored advice about how to pursue these issues on campus.

The most predictable resistance to policy changes surrounding BWCs will likely stem from the valid threat light reduction poses to human safety. Through careful management, however, we hope a solution that maximizes avian safety while maintaining that of humans can be reached. Compromises such as turning off only those lights in the highest stories of buildings or only reducing light emissions on the few nights of the year deemed most likely to cause high numbers of BWCs (i.e., cloudy nights on which high migration density is predicted by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's BirdCast or is evident on NEXRAD radar) are promising in this regard. While cities will continue to expand, proper policy modification can ensure that BWC fatalities need not increase proportionately.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to sincerely thank the Iowa Ornithologists' Union for providing the



Figure 4. Common Yellowthroat, Biomedical Sciences Complex, Johnson, 10 September 2018. Photograph by Katy Silber.



Figure 5. White-throated Sparrow, Biomedical Sciences Complex, Johnson, 18 October 2018. Photograph by Elliot Stalter.

study with grant funding used to hire a data collector and defray the cost of supplies: the study would not have occurred without the organization's generous support. I would also like to express my gratitude to Jamie Tigges and Katie Silber for their conscientious data collection and to Liz Christiansen for providing valuable insights near the study's inception. Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Tex A. Sordahl for reviewing and Karen Viste-Sparkman for editing this article in preparation for publication.

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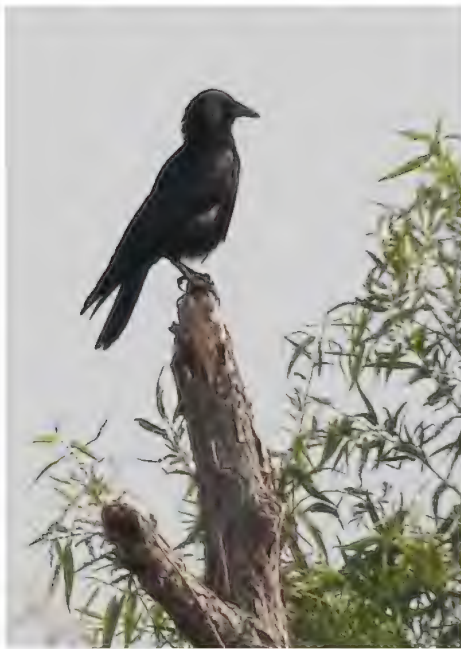


# Fish Crows at Saylorville Reservoir

*Stephen J. Dinsmore*

On 12 August 2018 I was birding at the small pond by the boat ramp at Sandpiper Beach when I heard a very nasal crow calling nearby that I immediately recognized as a Fish Crow. At 8:47 a.m. two crows flew in from the north and perched in one of the dead trees near the pond. They remained there for approximately 20 minutes, calling frequently, before flying west towards the beach. Bery Engebretsen arrived shortly after me and was able to confirm the identification. I searched for, but did not relocate, the birds on several subsequent trips before finally finding them again on 9 and 15 September. All sightings were around the pond and large parking area near the beach. Based on their behavior it seems likely that this was a pair of adult Fish Crows, although I saw no evidence of breeding.

The size, shape, glossy black coloration, and repeated “cah” calls identified the birds as crows. Most of the time they were alone, although on a couple of occasions I saw and heard American Crows nearby. The Fish Crows were distinctly smaller and more compact than the American Crows, but were otherwise similar in structure (Figure 1). The calls were mostly single-note, nasal “cah” calls although on a couple of occasions I heard the more typical double “cah-ah” call. I also examined the wing formula, which differs markedly from that of



*Figure 1. Fish Crow, Saylorville Res, Polk, 12 Aug 2018. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

an American Crow. This was a little hard to assess because both birds were in active molt, although photos confirm that the tenth primary (p10) was the shortest primary, p7 and p8 were the longest, and p9 was just lightly longer than p5. On September visits the advanced state of primary molt was evident by their brown coloration and the fact that several primary tips were broken, and indeed a couple of inner primaries appeared to be missing (Figure 2). The flight feather molt for Fish Crow is in August to October while the same molt for American Crow is typically completed by July (McGowan 2001). The nasal calls, wing formula, and molt timing are diagnostic for Fish Crow and eliminate the similar American Crow. I made several recordings of the calls on each visit. To my knowledge the birds were not seen after 15 September.

This is approximately the 7th record of a Fish Crow for Iowa. There have been

two previous records from Saylorville Reservoir, single birds on 20 May 2014 at Oak Grove Beach (*Iowa Bird Life* 84:114; 4th state record) and 2–9 April 2017 at Cherry Glen Recreation Area (John A. Bissell, m. ob.; 6th state record).



Figure 2. Fish Crow, Saylorville Res, Polk, 9 Sep 2018. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

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# Meet an Iowa Birder—Tom Schilke

*Paul Roisen*

Tom Schilke was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin in 1952. A few years later, his family moved to Neenah, Wisconsin where he completed his K–12 education and came to love spending time with family and friends that hunted, fished, and enjoyed the great outdoors. “We learned to canoe, camp, shoot, become archers and fishermen, chase butterflies, and be comfortable in remote places,” he says.

Having spent so much time out in nature, it seemed only natural to want to learn more about animals, plants, and other outdoor things. So off he went to the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point (UWSP) with plans to major in forestry. Interestingly, Tom had played the violin in the high school orchestra, and not long after arriving at UWSP he was approached by the orchestra director, who invited him to try out for the orchestra. After chair tryouts he was awarded Concertmaster as a freshman.

Tom deeply enjoyed the orchestra and related activities. It did not take long for Tom to realize that there were not many decent paying job opportunities in forestry, and *voila*, the decision was made to switch to a music education major. “It turns out that I was a lot better at music than science,” he chuckles.

It was clear from early on that teaching was his calling. He was scheduled to visit and observe a classroom teacher. When he arrived, not only was the teacher not present, a substitute had not been hired either. Tom took over the class and ended up doing his student teaching there as well. In 1974, Tom graduated with an unexpected degree: Bachelor of Music–Instrumental Music Education, Strings emphasis. He freely admits that becoming an orchestra director would never have entered his mind when he was in high school, and even early on in college.

In the fall of 1974, Tom signed a contract to teach orchestra in the Oskaloosa Community Schools, where he enjoyed a ten-year stint before moving to Waterloo in 1984.

Tom reports his first attempt at birding, circa 1979, was rather feeble. “Armed



*Tom Schilke searching for rusty patched bumble bees at the Tallgrass Prairie Center, Black Hawk, 5 August 2018. Photograph by J. Scott Garrett, Cedar Falls, IA.*

with an old pair of binoculars and a field guide I went to a favorite woodlot near Oska-loosa to see what I could find. One of the first birds I encountered was a robin. I knew that one, and also Cedar Waxwings that I would watch back home getting comically drunk on fermented crab apples in the front yard. Of course, I knew what the game birds were we would hunt. Oddly enough, that robin I first encountered—it fell over dead as I watched it!” Family, work, and other interests kept Tom on a lengthy hiatus from “birding” for another 18 years.

In 1997, the interest to learn birds hit again. He decided to get serious about identifying birds. He bought better binoculars and a Peterson field guide and began to look for field trips where he could learn from others. One of his first field trips was to Cedar Hills Sand Prairie led by Francis Moore, who had a little fun with Tom along the way. Tom had asked, “How do you tell an Eastern Meadowlark from a Western Meadowlark?” Francis, ever the helpful one, explained that the Eastern species was seen on the east side of the road and Western kept to the west side of the road. Huh! Over the years, Francis would become a good friend and mentor. After joining the Iowa Ornithologists’ Union (IOU) and attending meetings, Tom says he was blessed, as many a newbie has been, with help from IOU members. In particular, Jim Sterling and Aaron Brees were patient and kind enough to provide rookie Tom with birding help and tips during IOU meeting field trips.

Tom had set a goal of 90 bird species for 1997—which seemed lofty at the time. On one of his hikes at Cedar Hills Sand Prairie he met Nancy Slife (naturalist and later assistant professor of Biology and Conservation Tech at Ellsworth Community College) who was out studying leafhoppers. He told her of his quest to find 90 bird species this year. He then described to her a small brown bird he had just seen that had a face like a quail, which he could not put a name to. In her own gentle way she helped him figure out it was a Lark Sparrow—his first. It was clear that they shared a strong interest in birds and the outdoors. Nancy’s passion for birds and the ecosystems that sustain them was contagious. This bond continues today as Tom credits her with the inspiration to learn more, do more for the environment, and in turn to inspire others to do the same. It turns out that he “crushed” his birding goal with a final count of 99 species for 1997.

That year was also his first overseas environmental education trip—four weeks in Australia and two weeks in New Zealand. In years to follow he would take other environmental trips to Peru, Galapagos, Africa, China, Costa Rica, Brazil, and Ecuador, sometimes returning for a second trip. “I was blessed to be able to go to many remote and exotic places, always with an eye out for birds to try to identify.” Other trips with more of a birding focus were to Mexico and Arizona for a month with Francis, Ecuador with Paul Roisen and Dick Sayles, and the train to Churchill, Manitoba. He notes, “I am lucky to have been to so many world class places. If only one could simply snap the fingers and instantly be back to those special places—places that have been preserved throughout the world for all to experience and enjoy.”

Tom loves exploring wildlife habitats wherever he goes, including National Wild-

life Refuges, northern Wisconsin, and portions of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. One of his favorite places is the Billings, Montana area (his brother lives there), where short grass prairie, snow capped mountains, river bottoms, wetlands, and forested foothills can all be found within an hour's drive. His favorite route is birding the roads around the tiny town of Molt, a half hour west of Billings where "the air is clear and quiet—good for photography and peace of mind." His photographs include all kinds of flora, fauna, and scenery.

In 2007, Tom ended a storied thirty-three year career as a public school orchestra director. Though "retired from his day job," Tom has stayed invested in music—teaching private violin, viola, and cello lessons, playing violin in the Waterloo Cedar Falls Symphony, directing a youth orchestra, judging, guest directing music events, and occasionally playing mariachi gigs with Mariachi De Colores.

"When you show an interest in something and show up to meetings, sooner or later your name comes up for a position in leadership," quips Tom. The IOU did just that, first asking him to serve on the Board of Directors and later as vice president. Tom organized some of the best spring and fall IOU meetings we have experienced. Though no longer a board member, Tom continues to contribute by participating in a good number of Christmas Bird Counts, providing images for the quarterly *Iowa Bird Life* publication, and recently wrote a nice article on birding portions of Hardin County.

Tom has also spent time collecting data for REAP grants, doing point counts and vegetation surveys for the DNR, and collecting bird data for a wind farm consulting firm. The experience he gained searching for birds during the Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas II led to some of those bird watching gigs. Imagine being paid to go watch birds. Some of the surveys involve considerable amounts of time just sitting and watching. Tom views this as an opportunity. "A lot can be learned from regularly having to go to places you normally wouldn't go, and sit, watch, and listen. It is surprising what shows up at times. A long lens camera is most often by my side when out in the field, for diagnostic purposes and the challenge of getting decent images of what nature shows me," remarks Tom.

Another group that Tom is involved with is the Prairie Rapids Audubon Society (PRAS). He has served as board member, vice president, education chair, and now as President for the last six years. This Audubon group is arguably one of the most active chapters in Iowa. It has taken a very active role in reaching out to the community, providing conservation opportunities for young and old alike. Aside from regular programs and activities, the group works to provide financial aid and volunteer assistance to the six counties the chapter serves. Chimney Swift towers, binoculars in kids' hands, the viewing platform and tower at Pintail Wetlands, exhibits in area nature centers, Bird Friendly Iowa initiatives, and a long string of other projects are samples of what PRAS has done locally to benefit birds and conservation education. Additionally, Tom and other PRAS members regularly volunteer to teach birding and other outdoor skills during annual "5th grade Days" that rural County Conservation Boards put on, where



all the fifth graders are bused to a park for a day of outdoor related education activities.

“I enjoy being a part of a like-minded team of people with similar interests. They inspire you to be better at what you do. The IOU, PRAS, and birding friends, all fit that role,” says Tom.

Besides being an avid birder, Tom is also a skilled traditional bow hunter, camera at his side of course. If you are out and about in any of the counties surrounding Waterloo you could very well run into him just about anywhere. Look for a well-groomed, handsome gentleman sporting binoculars with a big smile. We are certainly blessed to have this guy as part of the IOU and a citizen of Iowa.

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*Snow Geese, Big Marsh, Butler, 1 March 2017. Photograph by Tom Schilke, Waterloo, IA.*

# Field Reports—Fall 2018

*Brandon Caswell*

## WEATHER

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marked 2018 as the fourth hottest year on record globally. This continues a warming trend, with the previous three years within the top three hottest all-time in 124 years of record keeping. The period of September through November 2018 was the second warmest on record globally. November, however, was cooler for the contiguous USA, ranking in the lower third all-time.

In Iowa, August temperatures were mostly normal, whereas precipitation averaged about two inches above normal. Lamoni saw the warmest reading at 100°F, while Washta had the lowest at 41°F. Larger-scale low pressure and frontal passages produced typical summertime thunderstorms. Rainfall amounts of up to 15 inches were measured in a belt between Harrison and Black Hawk counties, with Fort Dodge observing the highest total. The final week of August was wet, with a strong front moving through on the 28th. Keokuk reported 4.9 inches from that passage. Tornadoic weather was observed on the 16th, 20th, and 28th. Extreme drought conditions were present in parts of Davis County along with most of Appanoose and adjoining counties.

The average temperature for September was 3°F above normal and precipitation 4.51 inches above normal. This was the third wettest September on record. The month was also unseasonably warm, totaling 17 warmer-than-normal days consisting of two notable streaks of five and 10 days. The period of 14–21 September saw daytime highs in the mid-80s to lower 90s, 16°F above normal. Williamsburg recorded 96°F on the 17th, 21°F warmer than average. Northeastern Iowa saw the most rainfall accumulation with many stations reporting 8–10 inches above average. The Waterloo Airport in Black Hawk County recorded 14.45 inches, its highest one-month total on record. While the week of the 10th was abnormally dry, the periods of 5–6 and 19–20 September saw notable precipitation events causing widespread flash flooding. Tornadoic activity occurred on the 3rd, 4th, 20th, and 25th.

October was another wet but slightly cool month. It was the 7th wettest on record. The 9th saw northwest to southeast temperatures vary more than 30°F across the state, with lower 80s in southeastern Iowa to upper 40s in northwestern Iowa. De Soto in



*Brandon Caswell*



Dallas County reported a temperature of 93°F on the 2nd. The 14th saw the coldest daytime high of 33°F in Osceola. Other high temperatures were recorded 19–21 October, with highs in the western third of the state averaging 10°F above average. Overnight lows of 19°F in Clayton and Buchanan counties on the 22nd were 19°F below normal. Iowa's southern quarter and eastern third were wetter in early October, with many stations reporting precipitation 5–8 inches above average. Drought conditions were somewhat alleviated in southern Iowa in October.

Warmer conditions finally gave way in November, where the average temperature of 30.2°F was 6.4°F below normal. The majority of the month was unseasonably cold with a short warm period on 22–24 November. The periods of 7–13 and 17–19 November were exceptionally cold, with lows below zero. Surprisingly, the month started with a temperature of 62°F in Montgomery and Cass counties. The same temperature was recorded in Woodbury County on the 22nd. The coldest reading was on 18 November in Chickasaw County, measuring –6°F, or 28°F below normal. Mason City and Waterloo broke record lows on this date. Statewide, precipitation was above normal in northeastern and southeastern Iowa, but drier in the west. Muscatine County had the state's highest precipitation accumulation of 4.94 inches, 2.5 inches above normal. A strong low-pressure system occurred 25–26 November over southern Iowa, leading to heavy snow and some blizzard conditions. A foot of snow was reported in Clark County. Average snowfall across the state was 4.4 inches, 1.7 inches above normal.

## HABITAT, GENERAL TRENDS

A warmer and especially wetter September through October gave migrants, including both aquatic birds and flycatchers, the chance to linger to record or near record late dates. Species with new record late dates included Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, breaking the record late date by 15 days, Eastern Kingbird and Least Flycatcher, with new records by 10 days, and Common Nighthawk. Near record latest included White-faced Ibis and Least Bittern, each with new 2nd and 3rd latest dates, Common Gallinules with a 2nd latest tie, a new 3rd latest Least Flycatcher, and a new 3rd latest Sabine's Gull. Late warblers with new 2nd latest dates were Golden-winged Warbler and American Redstart, and Yellow Warbler had a new 2nd latest tie and 3rd latest record. Additionally, a 3rd latest Bobolink was reported.

Game bird populations appear to be steadily improving. The 2018 Iowa DNR August Roadside Survey reported Ring-necked Pheasants with either higher or steady populations in all surveyed regions. The statewide index for Northern Bobwhite, at 1.36 birds per route, was 62% above the 10-year average. Quail numbers are at the highest in the modern era with southeastern Iowa reporting significantly more than in 2017. Gray Partridge show little change with north-central and central Iowa having the highest numbers.

Hawk watch data showed some unfortunate trends. The Hitchcock hawk watch had a total raptor count down 30% from its 2002–2017 average. In 2018, there

were record low counts for Bald Eagle and Sharp-shinned Hawk. Second lowest counts included Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, and American Kestrel. Fortunately, Broad-winged Hawk numbers were well above the 579 average at 996. On 3 Oct 605 Turkey Vultures were counted, which was an all-time highest single day total. Grammer Grove tied its highest Merlin total and had its third highest Turkey Vulture count.

Fall diving duck numbers appear to show a decreasing trend along the Mississippi River. Although these types of surveys can be inaccurate because of count bias, the number of diving ducks on Pools 7, 8, and 9 are down an order of magnitude from numbers seen less than a decade ago. Between 1996 and 2012, the lowest annual high count for any survey date was 232,590. In 2017, that high was 104,388 followed by 77,857 in 2018. The average high between 1996 and 2012 (2013–2016 data unavailable) was 406,922 with a high in 2011 of 777,600 (WDNR). Farther south between Port Louisa NWR and L&D 19, the average annual high diver count (including December) from 2009 to 2018 was 162,687. The highest count for Canvasback was 261,000 in 2013 (INHS). Obviously, a larger analysis is needed to figure out exactly how diver populations are faring along the Mississippi in the fall. However, such an analysis is beyond the scope of this report.

Irruptive behavior in finch and nuthatch species likely reflected a dearth of available food in the taiga. Red-breasted Nuthatch detection started in late August with higher counts recorded early. Reports were steady throughout the entire fall season. Pine Siskins were in large numbers from early October to early November with reports commonly producing counts of 40–70 birds.

It seemed to be a banner fall for Surf Scoter and Blackpoll Warbler. There were 16 Surf Scoter reports across five counties. Reports were steady for a month-long period following the first report 9 Oct. Fall Blackpoll Warbler migration seemed to either expand or shift farther west. Outside Iowa, evidence to support this came from Hawk Ridge in Duluth, reporting a respectable 54 Blackpoll Warblers (Richardson 2018). Black Swamp Bird Observatory in Ohio banded 978, well above the 1990–2017 average of 543 (Gorbet 2018). In Iowa, there were 16 sightings. Many of the reports included diagnostic photos.

Perhaps the most tantalizing story of the fall included a pair of Fish Crows in August at Saylorville Reservoir. The sudden preponderance of Fish Crow sightings in the last several years at this location, e.g., May 2014 (Harms 2014), April 2017, April 2018, and August 2018 demonstrates that the species could be expanding its range into Central Iowa. The period of detection has also increased, from one day in 2014, a week in 2017, and over a month with this last fall account. This begs the question of whether nesting will be detected in the near future around Saylorville Reservoir.

## UNUSUAL SPECIES

Fall 2018 was a good season for rarities, especially in August. Unusual species in August included the state's fifth record for Roseate Spoonbill in Johnson

County, a juvenile Little Blue Heron in Polk County, and a Painted Bunting in Story County. Two aforementioned Fish Crows were in Polk County August into September. Also found in Polk County were a dark morph juvenile Parasitic Jaeger and a Mottled Duck. August rarities wrapped up with a Swallow-tailed Kite in Clinton County that remained into September. In September, a Whooping Crane of unknown origin was photographed in Kossuth County and a Pomarine Jaeger was in Marion County. A Say's Phoebe was in Union County in October. In November, a California Gull was in Lee County and lastly, a Varied Thrush was in Cerro Gordo County.

## SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Casual or Accidental species. \* = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **AHHP** = Ada Hayden Heritage Park, **DNR** = Iowa Department of Natural Resources, **HHW** = Hitchcock hawk watch, **INHS** = Illinois Natural History Survey, **L** = lake, **L&D** = lock & dam, **LC** = learning center, **M** = marsh, **NC** = nature center, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **SI** = slough, **SP** = state park, **USFWS** = United States Fish and Wildlife Service, **WA** = wildlife area, **WDNR** = Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

**Snow Goose:** Significant reports from Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* include 363 on 28 Oct, followed by 4019 on 11 Nov, 8189 on 18 Nov, 8832 on 24 Nov, and 1575 on 25 Nov (HHW). A report of 20,000 was at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* 23 Nov (eBird).

**Ross's Goose:** There were reports from *Cerro Gordo* of 2 on 26 Sep (BVL) and one on 6 Oct (CJF). One was at AHHP *Story* 17–18 and 20–30 Nov (WO). There were reports of 2 on 11 Nov, 22 on 18 Nov, and 6 on 24 Nov at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* (HHW).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** An injured bird stayed at Water Works P *Polk* for well over a week near the end of Aug (JB, AB). The high count was 70 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 12 Oct (RLC) along with 60 at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* 19 Oct (MP). At DeSoto NWR *Harrison*, 1000 were present 23 Nov (USFWS).

**Cackling Goose:** A whooping 759

were at the s end of Terrace P *Dickinson* 24 Nov (LAS). Eight at AHHP *Story* 12 Oct and 9 at Big Creek L *Polk* 28 Nov (RLC) rounded out reports of more than a few.

**Canada Goose:** Pool 10 *Clayton* produced 1077 on 27 Nov (WDNR). A high of 17,226 was at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* 27 Nov (USFWS). There were 1000 downstream from L&D 17 *Louisa* 29 Nov (INHS).

**Mute Swan:** An adult was at Littlefield P *Audubon* 5 Oct (MP).

**Trumpeter Swan:** A high of 16 adults 10 Oct probably remained throughout the fall at AHHP *Story* (WO), where numbers fluctuated between 2 and the high count. Ten were at both Crystal L *Hancock* 29 Oct (TMH) and at Union Hills WA *Cerro Gordo* 31 Oct (TMH). Few were seen around Saylorville Res *Polk* this season, where the high was 14



at Polk City WA on 18 Nov (AB).

**Tundra Swan:** There were two reports of 2 birds at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* 2 Nov (JF) and 10 birds at L Macbride *Johnson* 17 Nov (JF). The Wisconsin DNR (WDNR) fall waterfowl survey totaled 730 swan species, presumably *Tundra*, at Pool 9 *Allamakee* 29 Nov.

**Wood Duck:** There were 20 at AHHP *Story* 14 Aug (TMH), with a high of 20+ there 10 Nov (WO). The latest sighting was of 2 on 15 Nov at the same location (WO).

**Blue-winged Teal:** Away from the Mississippi River, a high of 780 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 1 Sep (AB). A high of 410 was at Pool 18 *Des Moines* 4 Sep. By 27 Sep, there were only 30 at Pool 17 *Louisa* (INHS). The latest sighting was of 2 at Harrier M *Boone* 15 Oct (TMH).

**Northern Shoveler:** Away from the Mississippi River a high of 420 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 12 Oct (AB). A count of 2700 was at Pool 17 *Louisa* 2 Nov (INHS). There were 150 on 8 Nov at Saylorville Res (AB). A high of 3000 was at Pool 17 on 14 Nov (INHS), which was the latest observation.

**Gadwall:** Away from the Mississippi, 750 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) 12 Oct. Eighty-three were at South Twin L *Calhoun* 30 Oct (TMH). The species peaked at 2300 on 14 Nov downstream of L&D 17 *Louisa*, where they were gone by 29 Nov (INHS). Pool 9 *Allamakee* produced a count of 1220 on 22 Nov (WDNR), and just one on 29 Nov.

**American Wigeon:** Away from the Mississippi, 73 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 12 Oct (AB). Fifty were downstream of L&D 17 *Louisa* 18 Oct (INHS). Pool 9 *Allamakee* produced 125 on 22

Oct (WDNR).

**Mallard:** At Saylorville Res *Polk* counts of 4000, 3100, and 1100 occurred 8 Nov, 18 Nov, and 29 Nov, respectively (AB). A count of 1396 was at Pool 13 *Clinton* 29 Nov (WDNR). Port Louisa NWR had 7000 on 29 Nov (INHS).

**American Black Duck:** Away from the Mississippi, the earliest sighting was a single at Trumbull L *Clay* 22 Sep (LAS). There were 200 at both Pool 18 *Des Moines* and downstream from L&D 17 *Louisa* 24 Oct (INHS). The latest sighting was of 2 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 29 Nov (RLC).

**MOTTLED DUCK:** One found by Aaron Brees was at the private basin n of Moeckly Prairie *Polk* 26–27 Aug (\*AB,\* JB, RLC).

**Northern Pintail:** A count of 1230 was at Pool 18 *Des Moines* 27 Sep (INHS). Away from the Mississippi River, a high of 60 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 12 Oct (RLC). Highs of 1000 were at Pool 17 *Louisa* 14 Nov and at Pool 18 *Des Moines* 20 Nov (INHS).

**Green-winged Teal:** Away from the Mississippi, a high of 130 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 29 Sep (AB). A count of 1000 was downstream of L&D 17 *Louisa* 18 Oct (INHS). There were 21 at Union Hills WA 31 Oct *Cerro Gordo* (TMH). Two thousand were at Pool 18 *Des Moines* 2 Nov (INHS). The latest was a report of 2 at AHHP *Story* 30 Nov (WO).

**Canvasback:** Numbers peaked at Pool 9 *Allamakee* to 2349 on 22 Oct (WDNR). There were 51,000 between Fort Madison *Lee* and Nauvoo, IL 14 Nov (INHS). Numbers were down to 7600 there 20 Nov (INHS). Nothing impressive was reported away from the Missis-

Mississippi River.

**Redhead:** Away from the Mississippi, a high of 68 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 29 Oct with 20 there 11 Nov (KVS). The last report was of 600 between Fort Madison *Lee* and Nauvoo, IL 12 Nov (INHS).

**Ring-necked Duck:** There were 993 at Pool 9 *Allamakee* 22 Oct (WDNR). At DeSoto NWR *Harrison*, there were 194 on 6 Nov (USFWS). Away from the major rivers, a high of 1000 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 8 Nov (RLC). A high of 7000 was at Pool 17 *Louisa* 14 Nov (INHS).

**Greater Scaup:** The first report was of 2 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 13 Oct (AB). A high of 16 was at Big Spirit L *Dickinson* 20 Oct (LAS). The last observation was 7 at Saylorville Res 8 Nov (RLC).

**Lesser Scaup:** There were 11,483 scaup species at Pool 9 *Allamakee* 22 Oct. A high of 10,000 was between Fort Madison *Lee* and Nauvoo, IL 2 Nov (INHS), where numbers held in the thousands up to the last count 20 Nov. Away from the Mississippi, 1750 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 31 Oct (AB, RLC) and 4000 were there 8 Nov (RLC).

**Surf Scoter:** It was a banner fall for this species. The first report was of one at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 9 Oct (RGo, BVL). A high count of 6 was at L Macbride *Johnson* 13 Oct (JF). Four were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 18 Oct (DTh). Five more reports occurred during the rest of October. The last was one 8 Nov at Saylorville Res (RLC).

**White-winged Scoter:** The first sighting was a high count of 6 at L&D 11 *Dubuque* 16 Oct (DAS). Five were at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 1 Nov (BVL, RGo).

Four were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 8 Nov (RLC). The last report was of one 16 Nov at Clear L (BVL).

**Black Scoter:** The first report was 29 Oct of one at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). A high of 3 was at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 1 Nov (JF). The last sighting was 29 Nov of one at Saylorville Res (RLC).

**Long-tailed Duck:** Away from a major river, one was at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 15 Nov (RGo, BVL). A beautiful male was observed by several 18 Nov at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TGS, DGE). Also 18 Nov, one was with a flock of Common Goldeneye at Big Creek L *Polk* (AB). One was at L Macbride *Johnson* 19–21 Nov (JF, JLF). The last report was a high of 6 at Pool 9 *Allamakee* 27 Nov (WDNR).

**Bufflehead:** A count of 1979 was at Pool 9 *Allamakee* 22 Oct (WDNR). Away from the Mississippi, a high of 98 was at Saylorville Res 8 Nov *Polk* (RLC). The last sightings were a high of 2400 between Fort Madison *Lee* and Nauvoo, IL (INHS) and one at Saylorville Res 29 Nov (RLC).

**Common Goldeneye:** DeSoto NWR *Harrison* recorded 446 on 20 Nov (USFWS). There were 2593 at Pool 9 *Allamakee* 27 Nov (WDNR). Away from the major rivers, a high of 350 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 28 Nov (RLC). A high of 10,000 was between Fort Madison *Lee* and Nauvoo, IL 29 Nov (INHS).

**Hooded Merganser:** There were 79 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 12 Nov (DTh, BE) and 105 at Pool 19 *Lee* 20 Nov (INHS). A high of 164 was at Saylorville Res 23 Nov (AB).

**Common Merganser:** There were 234 at Pool 9 *Allamakee* 2 Nov (WDNR)

and 200 at Pool 19 *Lee* 14 Nov (INHS). DeSoto NWR *Harrison* recorded 669 on 27 Nov (USFWS). Away from the major rivers, a high of 1900 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 29 Nov (RLC).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** The first report was a single at Saylorville Res *Polk* 19 Oct (RLC). A high of 28 was there 8 Nov (RLC) and the last was there 23 Nov (KVS).

**Ruddy Duck:** Away from the Mississippi, a high of 135 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 12 Oct (RLC). There were 6 at Cedar L *Chickasaw* 10 Nov (TMH). A high of 2900, also the last sighting, was at Pool 19 *Lee* 14 Nov (INHS).

**Northern Bobwhite:** There were 13 reports covering six counties. A curiously northern report of a single bird was at Kiowa M *Sac* 6 Aug (DAK). Five with at least one fledgling were at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 17 Aug (KVS). Highs of 9 were in Fairfield *Jefferson* 5 Sep (DCP), at Neal Smith NWR 20 Sep (KVS), and at Ringgold WA *Ringgold* 22 Oct (TMH). The last four years have seen the highest indices in the last 20 years (DNR).

**Gray Partridge:** A high of 8 was n of Nevada *Story* 15 Aug (HZ). An adult with 3 chicks was in *Benton* 23 Aug (TMH). These locations reflect a healthy and stable population in Central Iowa (DNR). Seven were along N Butler Road *Black Hawk* 22 Nov (DGE).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** A high of 18 was observed 2 Nov *Polk* (RLC), reflecting the overall impression that Iowa's population is relatively healthy. In fact, total hens and roosters counted were significantly higher than the previous year, which suggests better overwinter survival. Northeastern Iowa was above

its 10-year average (DNR).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** A high count of 64 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 12 Oct (RLC). The last sighting was 3 at Cedar L *Chickasaw* 10 Nov (TMH).

**Horned Grebe:** The first were 2 at Cedar L *Linn* 8 Oct (JF). A high of 19 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 19 Oct (RLC). The last sighting was a pair at Gray's Lake P *Polk* 12 Nov (JB).

**Red-necked Grebe:** A high of 3 was at Coralville Res *Johnson* 4 Oct (JF). The last sighting was 18 Nov at L Macbride *Johnson* (JF, CRE).

**Eared Grebe:** The first was in basic plumage at the basin n of Moeckly Prairie *Polk* 4 Sep (AB). This bird continued for at least 13 days. A high of 3 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 15 Oct. The last sighting was 2 at West Okoboiji L *Dickinson* 24 Nov (LAS).

**Western Grebe:** Highs of 2 were at Ventura *Cerro Gordo* 23 Oct (BVL), Big Spirit L *Dickinson* 27 Oct (LAS), and Saylorville Res *Polk* 23 Nov (AB).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** This species is now widely reported statewide. Their association with grain elevators in small towns is still strong.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** The last report was of one at Grammer Grove *Marshall* 12 Sep (MP).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** The latest report was one that struck a window 9 Oct in Urbandale *Polk* (DTh).

**Common Nighthawk:** There were 65 in Des Moines *Polk* 2 Sep. The next day a high of 90 was in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (BSc). A late sighting was of one in Cedar Rapids *Linn* 23 Oct (BSc). A record late bird was seen around sunset 7 Nov flying in the Coralville Walmart



parking lot *Johnson* (DAH).

**Chimney Swift:** A high of 50 was at Trestle Trail *Polk* 24 Aug (KVS). The latest sighting was 19 Oct at Water Works P *Polk* (JB).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Seventeen were at Ledges SP *Boone* 8 Sep (DCH). There were 11 reports that spanned most of October. The last report was in a yard *Polk* 25 Oct (AB).



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Iowa City, Johnson, 17 September 2018. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*

**Virginia Rail:** The last report was at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* 30 Sep (PH).

**Sora:** Four were at the basin n of Moeckly Prairie *Polk* 23 Aug (MP). The last was one 30 Sep at Union Hills WA *Cerro Gordo* (KVS).

**Common Gallinule:** A high of 37 was at Green Island WA *Jackson*, with 6 groups containing young (LGR). Two young birds lingered at Green Island WA 27 Oct, a 2nd latest tie (DAS).

**American Coot:** Away from the Mississippi River 2250 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 12 Oct (RLC). A high of 6050 was between Fort Madison *Lee* and Nauvoo, IL 24 Oct (INHS). The last report was 1120 at Saylorville Res 8 Nov

(RLC).

**Sandhill Crane:** There were 17 reports spanning 10 counties. Last reports were a high of 35 flying over Heron Bend *Lee* (JLF) and 27 at Sweet M *Bremer* (DGE) 12 Nov.

**WHOOPING CRANE:** A bird of unknown origin was photographed 5 Sep *Kossuth* (Tim Kissner-photo, *fide* TJ Herrick and \*SJD).

**Black-necked Stilt:** The only observation was a single bird at a private wetland nw of Slater *Boone* 2 Sep (AB, JB, RLC, DTh, WO).

**American Avocet:** There were 13 reports across six counties. The first report was of 3 on 6 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). A high of 9 was at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* 14 Oct. The final report was of 8 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 29 Oct (AB, RLC).

**Black-bellied Plover:** The first report was one 13 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). A high of 6 was there 18 Aug (FJ). The last report was of 5 at a sod farm nw of Spencer *Clay* 14 Oct (JAS).

**American Golden-Plover:** The first report was of 3 at Union Hills WA *Cerro Gordo* 14 Aug (CJF). A high of 51 was at a sod farm nw of Spencer *Clay* 14 Oct (LAS). The last report was one 21 Oct at Eagle Flats WA *Hancock* (RGo).

**Semipalmated Plover:** One was along the Des Moines River Corridor *Boone* 6 Aug (DCH). A high of 12 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 1 Sep (RLC). The last report was at Spring Run WA *Dickinson* 7 Oct (MHB).

**Killdeer:** The first report was a high of 10 w of Sheldahl *Polk* 10 Aug (AB). The last was one at Trumpeter M *Lee* 12 Nov (JLF).

**Upland Sandpiper:** The first report was a single 5 Aug w of Sheldahl *Polk* (AB). The last report was 4 Sep *Polk* (DTh).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** The only report was 40 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 14 Aug (JF).

**Marbled Godwit:** One was at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 2 Aug (JF).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** The only report was one at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 18 Aug (JF).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** The first report was 3 in a flood field near Sheldahl *Boone* 8 Aug (JB). The last report was a high of 5 at a drainage basin nw of Manson *Calhoun* 2 Oct (AB).

**Sanderling:** The first report was of one at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 1 Aug (JF). Two were at Brushy Creek RA *Webster* 23 Sep (MHB). The last was one nw of Manson *Calhoun* 2 Oct (AB).



*Sanderling, Brushy Creek RA, Webster, 23 September 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

**Dunlin:** One was nw of Manson *Calhoun* 2 Oct (AB). The last report was 2 w of Sheldahl *Polk* 20 Oct (AB).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** The first sighting was one 7 Aug *Hancock* (RGo). A

high of 7 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 1 Sep (RLC). The last sighting was 2 Oct of one nw of Manson *Calhoun* (AB).

**Least Sandpiper:** A high of 160 was nw of Manson *Calhoun* 2 Oct (AB). The last 2 were along NW 2nd Street *Polk* 28 Oct (AB).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** The first was one 14 Aug at Union Hills WA *Cerro Gordo* (CJF). Two were at Saylorville Res *Polk* at 19 Aug (RLC). The last was a single one mile w of Belle Plaine *Tama* 24 Sep (JF).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** Two were at a sod farm w of North Liberty *Johnson* 1 Aug (JF). A high of 3 was there 6 Aug (JF). The last report was one at the basin n of Moeckly Prairie *Polk* 27 Aug (RLC).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** First report was a high count of 290 at the basin n of Moeckly Prairie *Polk* 18 Aug (AB). The last report was 2 along 2nd Street *Polk* 28 Oct (AB).

**Western Sandpiper:** The first was one at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 1 Aug (JF). One was at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* 18 Aug (DTh). One was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 20 Aug (RLC) followed by 2 the next day at the same location (BCC, MP).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** One was seen 19 Aug *Polk* (RLC). Two juveniles were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 1 Sep (AB).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** The first were 3 adults found at Saylorville Res *Polk* 1 Sep (AB). Highs of 25 and 26 were at a sod farm *Clay* 6 and 14 Oct, respectively. The last was one along NW 2nd Street *Polk* 28 Oct (AB).

**American Woodcock:** One was at Trickle Sl *Dickinson* 20 Oct (LAS). The last was another single 6 Nov at Chain-O-

Lakes *Linn* (JF).

**Wilson's Snipe:** A first and high of 29 was at a sod farm *Clay* 14 Oct (LAS). The last was one at Union Hills WA *Cerro Gordo* 31 Oct (TMH).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** A first report and high of 8 was 4 Aug *Polk* (RLC). The last was one 17 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** A high of 11 was at the basin n of Moeckly Prairie *Polk* 13 Aug (AB). The last report was of 7 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 28 Sep (JF).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** There were numerous reports in Iowa, the Upper Midwest, and all the way to western Hudson Bay in early August (eBird).

**Willet:** There were three reports. Seventeen were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 14 Aug (AB, RLC). The last were 17 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 27 Aug (JF).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** A high of 28 was on a sod farm *Clay* 12 Oct (LAS). The last were 3 on 5 Nov near Palo *Linn* (JF).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** First was one 14 Aug at Union Hills WA *Cerro Gordo* (CJF). Two were w of Sheldahl *Polk* 18 Aug (AB). The next day, 2 were at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** There were 13 reports across four counties. The first was one at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 1 Aug (JF). A high of 4 was at Hawkeye WA 18 Aug (JF). The last were 5 at Hawkeye WA 9 Oct (JF).

**POMARINE JAEGER:** A jaeger species found by Tommy Stone and later confirmed as this species was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 8–9 Sep (\*TGS, \*SJD, \*POR).

**PARASITIC JAEGER:** A juvenile dark morph found by Stephen J. Dinsmore was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 28–29 Aug (\*SJD, \*RLC, \*JB, \*AJ).



*Parasitic Jaeger, Saylorville Res, Polk, 28 August 2018. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

**Sabine's Gull:** There were two reports: One at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 8 Oct (JF) and an adult 20 Nov below Saylorville dam *Polk* (DTh), which was a new 3rd latest date. The three latest Sabine's Gull reports are now all within four days of each other.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** The first were 6 at McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* 29 Sep (JB). A high of 380 was at Big Creek L *Polk* 10 Nov (AB). The last were 2 there 25 Nov (AB).

**Laughing Gull:** The only report was one 25 Sep at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

**Franklin's Gull:** High counts of 24,000 and 20,000 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 29 Sep (AB) and 20 Oct (RLC), respectively. The latest was one below Saylorville dam *Polk* 23 Nov (KVS).

**Ring-billed Gull:** A high of 21,000 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 24 Nov (AB).





*Little Blue Heron, Saylorville Res, Polk, 12 August 2018. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



*Black-crowned Night Heron, Spring Run, Dickinson, 5 October 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Lake Macbride, Johnson, 12 September 2018. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*



*Least Bittern, Snake Creek M, Greene, 12 August 2018. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*American Robin, Coralville, Johnson, 8 August 2018. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*



*American Goldfinch, Story, 12 August 2018. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*



*Cape May Warbler, Boone, 15 September 2018. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Magnolia Warbler, Boone, 8 September 2018. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*





*Varied Thrush, Lime Creek NC, Cerro Gordo, 19 November 2018. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*



*Tennessee Warbler, Lake Macbride, Johnson, 8 September 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Least Flycatcher, Boone, 9 September 2018. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*





*Swamp Sparrow, Lake Macbride, Johnson, 3 November 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Black-throated Green Warbler, Lake Macbride, Johnson, 8 September 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Philadelphia Vireo, Saylorville Res, Polk, 10 September 2018. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



*LeConte's Sparrow, Spring Run, Dickinson, 5 October 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Ovenbird, Boone, 8 September 2018. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

**CALIFORNIA GULL:** A basic adult was at the Fort Madison Riverfront P *Lee* 12 Nov (\*JLF).

**Herring Gull:** The first report was of 3 at L&D 15 *Scott* 11 Aug (JF). The last, a high count, was 165 on 27 Nov in Des Moines *Polk* (AB).

**Iceland Gull:** There were 21 reports across six counties. Coralville Res *Johnson* produced one 18 Oct (JF). A high of 2 was in Des Moines *Polk* 20 Nov (AB). One or more of these birds was probably moving back and forth between Saylorville Res and downtown Des Moines throughout November. One was at Big Spirit L *Dickinson* 24 Nov (LAS). The last report was an adult at L&D 14 *Scott* 30 Nov (JF).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** The first was an adult at West Okoboji L *Dickinson* 6 Oct (LAS). Another adult was at Cedar L *Linn* 23 Oct (JF). The last was a high of 5 at L&D 14 *Scott* 30 Nov (JF).

**Glaucous Gull:** The only report was of a 2nd cycle bird below Saylorville dam *Polk* 21–22 Nov (DTh, AB).

**Caspian Tern:** A high of 51 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 2 Sep (JB, AB). The last was one at Water Works P *Polk* 3 Oct (JB).

**Black Tern:** Thirty were at Goose Lake WA *Greene* 5 Aug (DCH). On 14 Aug 37 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). Saylorville Res *Polk* produced a high of 63 on 1 Sep (AB). The last was one at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 16 Sep (CRE).

**Common Tern:** The first report was of 3 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 14 Aug (AB). The last sighting was of 2 near Ventura over Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 9 Oct (RGo, BVL).

**Forster's Tern:** A high of 34 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 14 Aug (RLC). The last sighting was of 2 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 9 Oct (RGo).

**Red-throated Loon:** One was at Big Spirit L *Dickinson* 27 Oct (LAS). Another was at Coralville Res *Johnson* 10 Nov (JF), most likely staying until at least 19 Nov (JLF).

**Pacific Loon:** There was one report from Red Rock Res *Marion* 10 Nov (TGS).

**Common Loon:** A report of 41 was at Big Spirit L *Dickinson* 27 Oct (LAS). On 31 Oct, a high of 46 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). One showed up at Water Works P *Polk* 13 Nov (JB) and stayed, likely injured, until 26 Nov (JB) when, unfortunately, it was observed stranded on the ice.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** A high of 1900 was at Polk City WA *Polk* 30 Sep (RLC). A later report of 1450 was at the same location 7 Oct (AB). The last report was of one below Saylorville dam *Polk* 28 Nov (RLC).



*American White Pelican*, Johnson, 21 October 2018. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.

**American White Pelican:** Away from the Mississippi, 1500 were at Sand-

hill L *Woodbury* 2 Sep (GLV), 1100 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 3 Sep (AB), and 700 were at Ledges SP *Boone* 18 Sep (DCH). There were 910 counted at Pool 18 *Des Moines* 4 Sep (INHS).

**American Bittern:** A high of 4 was at the Spring Run WA *Dickinson* 8 Oct (MHB). The last report was 19 Oct at Owego WC *Woodbury* (GLV).

**Least Bittern:** A couple late sightings of single birds were at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 25 Oct (JF) and at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* 10 Nov (LR). These produced new 3rd and 2nd latest dates, respectively.

**Great Blue Heron:** The latest report was 12 Nov at Trumpeter M *Lee* (JLF).

**Great Egret:** Highs of 215 and 210 were at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 10 Aug (JF) and 16 Aug at Green Island WA *Jackson* (LGR), respectively. There were 34 at Lost Island Lake SP *Palo Alto* 6 Oct (LAS). The last sighting was 12 Nov of 2 below Red Rock dam *Marion* (AB).

**Snowy Egret:** A juvenile was at two sites at Saylorville Res *Polk* between 9 Aug (JB) and 19 Sep (DTh). The last report was 22 Sep from New L *Woodbury* (GLV).

**LITTLE BLUE HERON:** A juvenile was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 9 Aug (AB) where it continued until at least 12 Aug (\*MB, BE). It was first seen associating with a juvenile Snowy Egret.

**Cattle Egret:** One was photographed 10 Oct *Kossuth* (DGr).

**Green Heron:** There were two Oct reports. One was at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 14 Oct (JF) and one was at Fairfield *Jefferson* 15 Oct (DCP).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** The earliest was 27 Aug at Cedar L *Linn* (JF).

Three were below Saylorville dam *Polk* 22 Nov (AB), with at least one continuing until 25 Nov (AB).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** The first was a juvenile at Moeckly Prairie *Polk* 6 Aug (RLC). On 4 Sep, a juvenile was at L Macbride *Johnson* (LQ). It continued to at least 29 Oct (LGR), smashing the previous record late date by 15 days.

**White-faced Ibis:** The first 2 were 4 Oct *Clay* (LAS). Four were at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 16 Oct (JF). One was in the Iowa River Corridor *Iowa* 24 Oct (JF), a new 3rd latest date. The last report was of 2 at Dunbar Sl *Greene* 26 Oct (DCH), a new 2nd latest date.

***Plegadis* species:** There were several reports throughout the fall. The earliest were 11 on 29 Sep *Polk* (AB). One was seen 3 Oct (RT) and 6 Oct (DAk) *Polk*. There were reports 6 Oct *Palo Alto* (JDJ) and 10 Oct from Colo Bogs *Story* (HZ), and 16–18 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF, BCC, MHB, FB).

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL:** Jim Forde found Iowa's 5th record 10 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (\*JF, \*LGR, \*CRE, \*RJH, \*MHB). The last report



*Green Heron, Lake Macbride, Johnson, 6 September 2018. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



with photos was 18 Aug (eBird). The bird would usually appear in the morning on the big pool and then disappear to an unknown location. Fall 2018 proved to be a banner year for spoonbill dispersal. In addition to the Iowa record, Minnesota recorded its long-awaited first record for the species. Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, Connecticut, Maine, and Quebec all recorded at least one fall spoonbill.

**Turkey Vulture:** The Hitchcock hawk watch *Pottawattamie* had a record daily high of 605 on 3 Oct. Grammer Grove hawk watch *Marshall* had its 3rd highest season total at 663 (MP). The last sighting was of 30 on 27 Oct at Coralville Res *Johnson* (LGR).

**Osprey:** Three were in Cedar Rapids *Linn* 11 Aug, the result of successful nesting (BSc). The last was 22 Nov at L Macbride *Johnson* (JF).

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** An adult was found by Tony Moline 29 Aug *Clinton* with the last report with photos 4 Sep (\*TMO). The bird was readily observable from Highway 67 in the morning, usually disappearing around noon.

**Golden Eagle:** The earliest one was at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 27 Sep (HHW). One was along the edge of *Cerro Gordo* 18 Oct (RGo). A juvenile was in *Black Hawk* 29 Oct (TGS).

**Northern Harrier:** Eleven were in *Hancock* 29 Sep (PH). A 2nd highest daily total of 44 was at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 27 Oct (HHW).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** An early date of 2 Aug was reported in Johnston *Polk* (DTh). Thirty were at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 3 Oct (HHW).

**Cooper's Hawk:** A high of 40 was

at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 10 Oct (HHW).

**Northern Goshawk:** One was in *Black Hawk* 26 Sep (TGS). Two were at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* on 12 Dec (HHW).

**Bald Eagle:** At Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* the season total was 386, the lowest total from 2002 to 2018. Five were below Red Rock dam *Marion* 8 Sep (TMH).

**Mississippi Kite:** The only report was of 2 juveniles being fed by 2 adults 18 Aug at Memorial P *Wapello* (TMH), a traditional nesting location.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** One was seen 27 Aug *Emmet* (JDJ). Three were at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 18 Sep, a 2nd highest count (HHW).



Swallow-tailed Kite, Clinton, 29 August 2018.  
Photograph by Tony Moline, Dubuque, IA.



**Broad-winged Hawk:** There were 1376 at Mines of Spain *Dubuque* 24 Sep (LGR) and 340 at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 3 Oct (HHW). The last report was one at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* 10 Oct (MP).



*Broad-winged Hawk, Dubuque, 25 September 2018. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*

**Swainson's Hawk:** There were 282 on 30 Sep and 299 on 1 Oct at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* (HHW). The latest was one on 26 Oct *Greene* (DCH).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** A total of 180 was at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 14 Oct (HHW). Sixteen were in *Greene* 26 Oct (DCH).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** The earliest report was a dark morph at Polk City WA *Polk* 30 Sep (RLC).

**Barn Owl:** There was a single report of one located on property adjacent to Mines of Spain *Dubuque* 15 Sep (TMO).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** Two were at Ringgold WA *Ringgold* 18 Aug (TMH). On 20 Nov, both morphs were roosting in deciduous trees in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (CJF).

**Long-eared Owl:** One was at Hampton Cemetery *Franklin* 15 Nov (RGo,

BVL).

**Short-eared Owl:** The first report was 15 Oct *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). One was near Manly *Worth* 10 Nov (CJF). Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* proved to be one of the best places to view them, especially during daylight hours. Three were there 27 Nov (KVS).

**Belted Kingfisher:** Three were at Sharon Bluffs SP *Appanoose* 15 Aug (TMH). The last report was 21 Nov in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (CJF).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Eighteen were at Ledges SP *Boone* 8 Sep (DCH). There were 95 in *Madison* 20 Sep (KMc). Twenty-six were at Lake Darling SP *Washington* 17 Oct (LGR).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** The first report was of one below Saylorville dam *Polk* 18 Aug (MHB). Five were in a yard in Urbandale *Polk* 8 Oct (BE). The last report was one in Johnston *Polk* 1 Nov (DTh).

**Northern Flicker:** On 26 Sep, there were 27 at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (DCH). There were reports of several purported red-shafted individuals: one at Luton WA *Woodbury* 26 Sep (GLV), one described well 17 Oct in Ottosen *Humboldt* (JN), and another in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* 10 Nov (CJF).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** A high of 6 was at Princeton M *Scott* 11 Sep (KMc). At the northwestern limit of their Iowa range were two reports, 19 Aug and 13 Sep, at Ambrose A. Call SP *Kossuth* (DAk, DGr).

**American Kestrel:** Nineteen were at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 18 Sep (HHW).

**Merlin:** There were four reports 30 Sep across the state. These included

the Organic farm *Polk* (RLC), Moeckly Prairie *Polk* (RLC), Legacy WA *Hardin* (MP), and Elk Creek M *Worth* (CRN). Three were at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 3 and 13 Oct (HHW).

**Peregrine Falcon:** Five were at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 17 and 24 Sep, and 7 were there 3 Oct (HHW).

**Prairie Falcon:** Singles were at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 14 Sep, 3 Oct, and 26 Oct (HHW).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** The latest was one at Frank A. Gotch SP *Humboldt* 14 Sep (MP).

**Western Kingbird:** The only report was of an adult and immature in Ankeny *Polk* 3 Aug (RGo).

**Eastern Kingbird:** A record late by 10 days was at Swan L *Johnson* (MHB) 18 Oct.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** The first report was one 7 Aug at Lime Creek NC *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). Three were at Lake Anita SP *Cass* 8 Sep (MP). The last sighting was 15 Sep at Frank A. Gotch SP *Humboldt* (MP).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** The latest report was of one 30 Sep *Johnson* (JLF).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** The first was one at Green Island WA *Jackson* 16 Aug (LGR). The last was 11 Sep at Corydon Res *Wayne* (MP).

**Alder Flycatcher:** A vocalizing bird was at Lime Creek NC *Cerro Gordo* 6 Aug (BVL). One 25 Aug was at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP).

**Willow Flycatcher:** The last report was one at AHHP *Story* 14 Aug (TMH).

**Least Flycatcher:** The earliest was one at Water Works P *Polk* 17 Aug (JB). Three were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 9 Sep (RLC). One was at Parker's Woods *Cerro*

*Gordo* 10 Oct (BVL), which was a new 3rd latest. The last report was of one 26 Oct in Ogden *Boone* (DCH), a new record late by 10 days.

**Eastern Phoebe:** The latest sighting was 16 Oct at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

**SAY'S PHOEBE:** There was a report by Ben Baldwin 26 Oct *Union* (\*BAB).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** Two were at Ringgold WA *Ringgold* 4 Aug (AB). The last sighting was 7 Sep s of Earling *Shelby* (MP).

**Northern Shrike:** The only report was a single at Aldo Leopold WA *Bremer* 27 Oct (TGS).

**White-eyed Vireo:** One was at L Macbride *Johnson* 15 Sep (MHB) and at Hickory Hill P the next day *Johnson* (MHB). The latest report was of one in Fairfield *Jefferson* 18 Sep (DCP). No reports were away from eastern Iowa.

**Bell's Vireo:** The latest report was of one 5 Sep in Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP).



*Eastern Wood-Pewee, Boone, 17 September 2018. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** The last observation, also a high count, was 4 at Trestle Trail *Polk* 16 Sep (KVS).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** The first report was 24 Aug at Trestle Trail *Polk* (KVS). The last report was 14 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** The earliest was one 21 Aug at Water Works P *Polk* (JB). Three were below Saylorville dam *Polk* 8 Sep (RLC). The last report was 16 Sep at L Macbride *Johnson* (CRE).

**Warbling Vireo:** A high of 8 was below Saylorville dam *Polk* 29 Aug (RLC). The last was one 16 Sep at Trestle Trail *Polk* (KVS).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** A high of 13 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 9 Sep (RLC). The latest was 23 Oct in Ogden *Boone* (DCH).

**Blue Jay:** A high of 407 was in Ogden *Boone* 3 Oct (DCH).

**FISH CROW:** Stephen J. Dinsmore found a pair at Sandpiper RA 12 Aug. They were at sites around Saylorville Res *Polk* 12 Aug to 15 Sep (\*SJD, \*BE, \*AB, \*JB, JG). Although the two were an assumed pair, no evidence of nesting was documented. Along with confirmation from vocalizations, photos were obtained showing the correct wing formula for the species. Evidence of molting in later sightings demonstrated the birds were conforming to temporal patterns of molt as described in literature (Dinsmore 2019).

**Purple Martin:** On 11 Aug 550 were west of Brenton SI *Dallas* (AB). The last reports were of 2 on 18 Aug at Pioneer Ridge Nature Area *Wapello* (TMH) and 3 the same date in *Madison* (KMc).

**Tree Swallow:** There were 3000 on 5 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (LGR).

Five days later 500 were just south, at F.W. Kent P *Johnson* (LGR). The last were 7 at L Petocka *Polk* 24 Oct (AB).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Fifty were below Red Rock Res *Marion* 8 Sep (TMH). The last was one at Gray's Lake P *Polk* 12 Oct (JB).

**Bank Swallow:** Twenty were at Rock Creek P *Clinton* 1 Aug (KMc). The last sighting was of 4 on 26 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

**Cliff Swallow:** Twenty-two were at Nahant M *Scott* 8 Aug (KMc). The last sighting was of 11 at Trestle Trail *Polk* 9 Sep (KVS).

**Barn Swallow:** Thirteen were at Hendrickson M *Story* 1 Sep (TMH). There were 241 on 18 Sep in *Madison* (KMc).

**Tufted Titmouse:** Thirteen were at Rock Creek P *Clinton* 1 Aug (KMc). On 4 Aug, 8 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). A sighting from the northwestern edge of their Iowa range came from Ambrose A. Call SP *Kossuth* 19 Aug and 13 Sep (DAK, DGr).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** It was an irruptive fall for this species. The first one was 22 Aug at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo*. A high of 10 was at Lake Anita SP *Cass* 29 Aug (MP). Reports were steady for all Sep, Oct, and Nov with usually one to 4 per report. The last sighting for the season was 2 on 25 Nov *Story* at a home feeder (TMH).

**Brown Creeper:** The first was 22 Sep at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (BVL).

**House Wren:** The latest was one at Wickiup Hill LC *Linn* 12 Oct (BSc).

**Winter Wren:** The earliest was one 26 Sep *Johnson* (JLF).

**Sedge Wren:** A high of 55 was at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 23 Aug (KVS). The latest sighting was one 17 Oct at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* (MP).

**Marsh Wren:** Ten were at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* 30 Sep (PH). Latest were 2 at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* 17 Oct (MP).

**Carolina Wren:** Reported across seven counties. Two were in Sioux City *Woodbury* 30 Oct (GLV).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** The last report was of 4 at Nahant M *Scott* 11 Sep (KMc).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** The first report was 25 Aug at Rock Creek P *Clinton* (KMc). The latest report was 20 Nov in Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** The first report was 7 Sep at Parker's Wood *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). A high of 50 was at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 29 Sep. The latest report was 20 Nov in Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP).

**Eastern Bluebird:** A high of 16 was seen 9 Oct *Madison* (KMc).

**Veery:** The first observation was one at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* 21 Aug (RGo). Last was one at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* on 12 Sep (MHB).

**Gray-checked Thrush:** The earliest report was 1 Sep of one below Saylorville dam *Polk* (RLC). The last report was of one in Fairfield *Jefferson* 10 Oct (DCP)

**Swainson's Thrush:** The first report was of 2 at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). Numbers peaked between 9 and 19 Sep, with a high of 14 at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* 12 Sep (MHB). The last report was at McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* 30 Sep (KVS).

**Hermit Thrush:** The first was one at Eagle Point P *Clinton* 22 Sep (KMc). The

last was one at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 17 Nov (JF).

**Wood Thrush:** There were two late reports: one at Rock Creek P *Clinton* 15 Sep (KMc) and one at Ambrose A. Call SP *Kossuth* 16 Sep (MCK).

**VARIED THRUSH:** An adult male was at Lime Creek NC *Cerro Gordo* 18–24 Nov (RGo, CJF, \*JB, \*JR, \*DAH).



*Varied Thrush, Lime Creek NC, Cerro Gordo, 18 November 2018. Photograph by Dean Hester, North English, IA.*

**Gray Catbird:** There were 26 at Squaw Creek P *Linn* 10 Sep (LGR). On 11 Sep, a high of 39 was at Princeton M *Clinton* (KMc). There were 25 at L Macbride *Johnson* on 14 Sep (LGR). The last was on 12 Nov *Des Moines* (JLF).

**Brown Thrasher:** The latest was 9 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

**Northern Mockingbird:** Two were in *Washington* 10 Sep–15 Oct (FB). The latest was 22 Oct from Ringgold WA *Ringgold* (TMA)

**European Starling:** A high count of 12,000 was at Nahant M *Scott* 10 Oct (KMc). There were 237 in *Dickinson* 14 Nov (KMc).

**Cedar Waxwing:** Highs were of 150 at Eagle Point P *Clinton* (KMc) 22 Sep



and 13 at Nahant M *Scott* 20 Oct (KMc).

**House Sparrow x Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** Aaron Brees observed and photographed this hybrid in *Polk*. The bird was found late summer and continued until at least 19 Aug. This is likely the first such record of this hybrid in Iowa.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** Away from eastern and southeastern Iowa, 2 were three miles e of Rippey *Boone* 22 Oct (SL). One was at Grammer Grove *Marshall* 12 Nov (MP).

**American Pipit:** The first report was one 9 Sep at Trestle Trail *Polk* (KVS). Eleven were at a sod farm *Clay* 14 Oct (LAS). Ten were at Union Hills WA *Cerro Gordo* 31 Oct (TMH). A high of 52 was at the basin n of Moeckly Prairie *Polk* 7 Nov (AB). The last report was of one 12 Nov at Green Bay Bottoms *Lee* (JLF).

**Purple Finch:** The first fall report was one at Nahant M *Scott* 12 Sep (KMc). The last report was one 26 Nov *Carroll* (EB).



*Purple Finch, Lake Macbride, Johnson, 3 November 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

**Pine Siskin:** The first report was 8 Aug at home feeders in *Black Hawk* (TGS). One was at Port Louisa NWR

*Louisa* 13 Sep (BCC). Seventy were at Riverview Cemetery *Kossuth* 1 Oct (MCK). Fifty were at Sacred Heart Cemetery *Des Moines* 12 Nov (JLF). An additional 60 were at Hampton Cemetery *Franklin* 15 Nov (RGo). Up to 40 were at home feeders *Cerro Gordo* 28 Nov (CJF).

**American Goldfinch:** There were 64 on 18 Sep *Madison* (KMc). A flock of 58 was at McFarland P *Story* 22 Oct (DCH). Fifty-two were in *Palo Alto* 16 Nov (KMc).

**Lapland Longspur:** Ninety-three were in *Dickinson* 23 Oct followed by 229 at the same location the next day (KMc). There were 404 in *Emmet* 8 Nov (KMc). There were 1000 on 12 Nov at Green Bay Bottoms *Lee* (JLF). A high count of 6246 was in *Palo Alto* 16 Nov (KMc). Numbers seemed to drop off significantly by 23 Nov in northwestern Iowa.

**Smith's Longspur:** The first report was 3 on 18 Oct at Nagle Wildlife Preserve *Floyd* (RGo). Ten were in *Dickinson* 23 Oct (KMc). Twenty-seven were in *Emmet* 25 Oct (KMc). The last report was 2 in a flock of around 100 Laplands 29 Oct *Cerro Gordo* (CRN).

**Snow Bunting:** The first report was 8 Nov *Emmet* of 2 birds (KMc). The high was 11 on 14 Nov *Emmet* (KMc). Two were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 22 Nov (AB).

**Spotted Towhee:** Only report was of one at Trinity Heights *Woodbury* 26 Aug (RGo).

**Eastern Towhee:** Five were at Saylorville WA *Dallas* 1 Aug (RLC). The last sighting was 18 Oct in Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP).

**American Tree Sparrow:** The earliest sighting was 22 Oct at Lime Creek

NC *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). Highs of 25 and 27 were both at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 27 Oct and 30 Oct, respectively (KVS).

**Chipping Sparrow:** The last observation of one was 12 Nov *Cerro Gordo* (BVL).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** The first report was of one 2 Sep at Spring Run WA *Dickinson* (MHB). A high count of 3 was below Saylorville dam *Polk* 7 Oct (BE). The last report was 9 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

**Field Sparrow:** A high count of three was at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* 16 Oct (RLC). One in Fairfield *Jefferson* 1 Nov was the last report (DCP).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Two were the first observed 30 Sep *Boone* (RLC). The last report was of one at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 13 Oct (CRE).

**Lark Sparrow:** Four were at Saylorville WA *Dallas* 1 Aug (FLC). A high count of 8 was at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 11 Aug (MP). The last report was of 2 on 15 Aug at Saylorville WA *Dallas* (RLC).

**Savannah Sparrow:** The first sighting was of 2 birds 29 Sep *Floyd* (KVS). A high count of 36 *Boone* was 30 Sep (RLC). The last report was 7 Nov of 2 birds at the Brenton feedlot *Dallas* (RLC).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** There were two reports: 20 in *Woodbury* 9 Aug (GLV) and 2 at Homestead *Iowa* 10 Aug (LGR).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** High counts included 24 for the first fall report 3 Aug and 16 on 23 Aug, both at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS). These were all likely continuing summer birds. A late single was at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* 3 Oct (MHB).

**LeConte's Sparrow:** Earliest were

2 at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* 26 Sep (DCH). Five were at a private wetland *Floyd* 29 Sep (KVS). A high of 6 was at Spring Run WA *Dickinson* 5 Oct (MHB). The last report was of one at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 18 Oct (KVS).

**Nelson's Sparrow:** Two at a private wetland *Floyd* were the first sighting 25 Sep (RGo, BVL). A high of 8 was there 29 Sep (BVL). Six were at Legacy WA *Hardin* 30 Sep (MP). The last sighting was of one 12 Oct at Wickiup Hill LC *Linn* (BSc).

**Fox Sparrow:** Seventeen reports spanned 10 counties. Luton WA *Woodbury* produced the first sighting of 2 on 26 Sep (GLV). A high of 7 was at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* at 16 Oct (RLC). The last date was one 11 Nov in Johnston *Polk* (DTh).

**Song Sparrow:** A report of 8 was 14 Aug at AHHP *Story* (TMH). A high of a dozen was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 9 Oct (RLC).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** There were 14 reports covering seven counties. The earliest was one at Ledges SP *Boone* 9 Sep (DCH). A high count of 9 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 9 Oct (RLC). The last sighting was 10 Nov at Trestle Trail *Polk* (KVS).

**Swamp Sparrow:** One at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5 Oct (RLC) was the first. A high count of 28 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 9 Oct (RLC). Nineteen were at Larson M *Story* 27 Oct (TMH). Seven were in *Cerro Gordo* 31 Oct (TMH). The latest report was 2 on 29 Nov at AHHP *Story* (WO).

**White-throated Sparrow:** Twenty reports spanned nine counties. Earliest were 4 at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo*

7 Sep (BVL). Thirty plus were at AHHP *Story* 28 Sep (WO). Another two large counts of 42 and 26 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 7 Oct and 9 Oct, respectively (RLC). A high count of 60 was in a backyard in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* 15 Oct (CJF). The last report came 29 Nov in Ankeny *Polk* (RLC).

**Harris's Sparrow:** Eight were the first of fall in Algona *Kossuth* (MCK). A high of 12 was at Spring Run WA *Dickinson* 5 Oct (MHB). Four were at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 27 Oct (MHB). The last was one 18 Nov at AHHP *Story* (WO).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** One was at Spring Run WA *Dickinson* 5 Oct (MHB). Last report was 12 Oct at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** A report at Big Wall Lake WA *Wright* 28 Sep was the first (JB). Sixteen was a high count 12 Oct at Larson M *Story* (TMH). One 17 Oct in Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP) was the latest arrival.

**Bobolink:** A high of 160 was at Spring Run WA *Dickinson* 2 Sep (MHB). The latest was one at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 27 Oct (MHB), a new 3rd latest date for the species.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** A high of 15 was at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* 6 Oct (RLC). The last was one at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 22 Oct (KVS).

**Western Meadowlark:** Ten were reported 9 Oct *Madison* (KMc).

**Orchard Oriole:** The latest was one 1 Sep *Washington* (AC).

**Baltimore Oriole:** A high of 27 was at Ledges SP *Boone* 15 Aug (DCH). Eight were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 25 Aug (RLC). The latest was at home feed-

ers *Warren* 21 Sep (AMJ).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** A count of 730 was at Rock Creek P *Clinton* 15 Sep (KMc). There were 1805 in *Clay* 5 Oct (KMc). There were 7000 at Nahant M *Scott* 10 Oct (KMc). There were 22,429 in *Dickinson* 7 Nov (KMc). By 9 Nov, numbers were significantly down in northwestern Iowa.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** On 28 Aug 250 were in Urbandale *Polk* (BE). Ninety were at Brenton feedlot *Dallas* 7 Nov (RLC).

**Rusty Blackbird:** The first report was 5 at Rock Creek P *Clinton* 15 Sep (KMc). There were 150 observed 8 Nov *Palo Alto* and 140 the next day *Emmet* (KMc). The latest report was 40 on 16 Nov *Palo Alto* (KMc). The majority of reports were from northwestern Iowa.

**Brewer's Blackbird:** The first report was of 42 on 14 Oct in *Clay* (LAS). A high count of 1000 was in *Emmet* 26 Oct (KMc). Ninety-four were in *Polk* 4 Nov (AB). On 10 Nov 40 were s of Sergeant Bluff *Woodbury* (GLV).

**Common Grackle:** An incredible 48,304 were in *Emmet* 25 Oct (KMc). On 7 Nov 9500 were in *Dickinson* (KMc).



*Great-tailed Grackle, Boone, 10 August 2018. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

**Great-tailed Grackle:** Dunbar SI *Greene* produced the first report 5 Aug (DCH), followed by 69 on 2 Sep and 37 on 19 Sep (DCH). The last was one at Water Works P *Polk* 25 Oct (JB).

**Ovenbird:** Fourteen reports covered eight counties. Earliest were 2 on 22 Aug at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS). The last was 10 Oct at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (BVL).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** There was one report from Sharon Bluffs SP *Appanoose* 15 Aug (TMH).

**Northern Waterthrush:** Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* produced the first sighting 23 Aug (BVL). The last was 14 Oct at Trickle SI *Dickinson* 14 Oct (LAS).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Sixteen reports came from nine counties. The first was 18 Aug at Coralville Res *Johnson* (LGR). There were eight reports 7–9 Sep, with a high of 5 on 8 Sep at Walnut Woods SP *Polk* (AB). The latest report was 29 Sep at L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB), a new 2nd latest. The farthest northwestern report was one at Ambrose A. Call SP *Kossuth* 13 Sep (DGr).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** The first report was 29 Aug at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site *Cedar* (BSc). A high count of 3 was at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* 6 Sep (BVL, RGo). The latest was at Ames *Story* 24 Sep (TMH).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** There were 17 reports spanning eight counties. First report was of 2 at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* 14 Aug (MP). A high count of 10 was at Trestle Trail *Polk* 24 Aug (KVS). Six were below Saylorville dam *Polk* 1 Sep (RLC). The interval 8–9 Aug saw several reports with 5–7 reported from west-central to east-central Iowa.

The latest was 5 Oct at Nathan Hamlin P *Audubon* (MP).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Only report was of one below Saylorville dam *Polk* 18 Aug (MHB).

**Tennessee Warbler:** Sixteen reports covered 10 counties. The earliest sighting was 10 Aug in a backyard *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). A high count of 30 was at Hannen L *Benton* 7 Sep, most feeding low in mixed flocks (LGR). A dozen were at L Macbride *Johnson* 8 Sep (MHB). Nine were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 9 Sep and 11 at Saylorville WA *Dallas* 10 Sep (RLC). Over the next month, there were reports of 1–2 birds, with the latest 14 Oct at Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** The first sighting was below Saylorville dam *Polk* on 1 Sep (RLC). A high count of 6 was at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* 30 Sep (PH). Five were in *Audubon* 5 Oct (MP). The latest was at AHHP *Story* 27 Oct (WO).

**Nashville Warbler:** Twenty-one reports spanned 10 counties. The first report was 2 below Saylorville dam *Polk* 29 Aug with a high count of 10 there 1 Sep (RLC). Eight were in *Audubon* 5 Oct (MP). The latest was one loosely associated with Black-capped Chickadees 1 Nov at Shaver P *Linn* (BSc).

**Mourning Warbler:** There were only five reports for this species. Two birds were at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* 24 Aug (BVL). The latest report was at L Macbride *Johnson* 9 Sep (MHB).

**Kentucky Warbler:** The lone report was one at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* 16 Sep (DGr, RAS).

**Common Yellowthroat:** A high count of 9 was below Saylorville dam



*Polk* 1 Sep (RLC). One was at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 17 Oct (KVS)

**American Redstart:** Fourteen reports covered six counties. High counts were of 18 below Red Rock Res dam *Marion* 8 Sep (TMH) and 27 at L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB). A late female was a new 2nd latest, seen at McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* 1 Nov (BVL).



*American Redstart, Iowa City, Johnson, 23 August 2018. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*

**Cape May Warbler:** It seemed like an exceptional fall for this species. There were 11 reports covering six counties. The earliest sighting was 7 Sep at Ledges SP *Boone* (DCH). A high count of 5 was at L Macbride *Johnson* 8 Sep (MHB). The latest observation was at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 5 Nov (DAS).

**Northern Parula:** Three were at L Macbride *Johnson* 8 Sep (MHB). A high count of 5 was at Frank A. Gotch SP *Humboldt* 14 Sep (MP). The latest was 23 Sep at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RGo).

**Magnolia Warbler:** There were 26 records across eight counties. The first

observation was 17 Aug at Water Works P *Polk* (JB). Numbers peaked 7 Sep at Hannen L *Benton* with 17 (LGR) followed by counts of 10, 9, and 13 on 8–9 Sep (TMH, MHB, RLC) in the southern half of the state. Latest sightings were 10 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (BVL), and at AHHP *Story* (WO).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Twenty-two reports spanned a dozen counties. Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* and McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* saw the first birds 14 Aug (BVL, RGo). A high count of 7 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 9 Sep (RLC). The two latest reports were at AHHP *Story* (WO) and Riverview Cemetery *Kossuth* (MCK) 10 Oct.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** There were 19 reports that spanned 10 counties. The two earliest reports were 15 Aug at Water Works P *Polk* (JB) and Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). High counts were of 6 birds 22 Aug–1 Sep in three locations in *Jasper* and *Polk* (KVS, RLC). The latest report was of a female in a backyard in Ogden *Boone* 13 Sep (DCH).

**Yellow Warbler:** A report 4 Aug at Polk City WA *Polk* was earliest (RLC). A high count of 5 was at Lake Anita SP *Cass* (MP). The latest reports were 4 Oct at Clear Lake SP *Cerro Gordo* (BVL) and 5 Oct at Cedar L *Linn* (BCC), new 3rd latest and 2nd latest tie, respectively.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** There were 16 reports from across eight counties. The first was 10 Aug at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). Between 18 Aug and 8 Sep there were seven reports, each of 9–11 birds (MHB, LGR, KVS, RLC, MHB, TMH). The latest report was of 2 at Trestle Trail *Polk* 16 Sep (KVS).



*Chestnut-sided Warbler, Iowa City, Johnson, 19 August 2018. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*

**Blackpoll Warbler:** This was a banner fall for the movement of this species in the Upper Midwest. On 8 Sep, one was below Red Rock dam *Marion* (TMH). Another was at Cedar L *Linn* 19 Aug (JF). The latest was at Eagle Flats WA *Hancock* 20 Sep (PH).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Seven reports spanned six counties. The earliest was a female 1 Sep at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TGS). One was at Hanging Rock Woods *Johnson* 6 Sep (JF). An immature/female was at Mentero P *Shelby* 7 Sep (MP). A male was at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* 7 Sep (BVL, RGo). A male was at Robison Wildlife Acres *Story* 8 Sep (WO). The latest was an immature/female at Water Works P *Polk* 21 Sep (AB).

**Palm Warbler:** There were 10 reports from nine counties. A sighting 20 Sep at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS) was the earliest. High counts of 5 each were 30 Sep at a private wetland *Floyd* and at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (PH).

The latest report was one at Terra P *Polk* 13 Oct (KVS).

**Pine Warbler:** There were few reports for this species. The earliest was one 28 Aug at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (LGR). A high count of 3 was at Holst SF *Boone* 30 Aug (DCH). The latest report was from Urbandale *Polk* 8 Oct (BE).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Twenty-one reports spanned nine counties, although it is likely this species spans the entire state during migration. The earliest was 6 Sep at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). High counts included 55 at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* 26 Sep (DCH), 60 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 29 Sep (JB), 85 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5 Oct (RLC), and 50 at Lake Darling SP *Washington* 17 Oct (LGR). The latest were at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* 22 Oct (MP).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** One at Water Works P *Polk* (JB) 15 Aug was earliest. Cedar L *Linn* produced one on 17 Sep (JF). A late bird 14 Oct at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB) was feeding alone.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** There were 22 reports that spanned a dozen counties. The earliest two dates were 23 Aug at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (BVL) and 24 Aug at Trestle Trail *Polk* (KVS). A high count of 7 was at Ledges SP *Boone* 7 Sep (DCH). The latest two reports came 8 Oct in Urbandale *Polk* (BE) and 10 Oct in Algona *Kossuth* (MCK).

**Canada Warbler:** Sixteen reports covered eight counties. The two earliest reports were 15 Aug at Water Works P *Polk* (JB) and 16 Aug at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP). Two were at Ledges SP *Boone* 7 Sep (DCH). The latest were singles 9 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk*

(RLC) and at AHHP *Story* (WO).

**Wilson's Warbler:** There were 14 reports spanning eight counties. One at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* 23 Aug (RGo) was the earliest. A high count of 4 was at L Macbride *Johnson* 8 Sep (MHB). Many reports came from the Saylorville Res area *Polk*, including those 24 Aug (KVS), 29 Aug (RLC), 7 Sep (KVS), 9 Sep (KVS, RLC), and 5 Oct (RLC). The latest 2 were 7 Oct near Arnold's P *Dickinson* (MCK) and 9 Oct at Cedar L *Linn* (JF).

**Summer Tanager:** Eight reports spanned through central to east-central Iowa. One was in Johnston *Polk* 19 Aug, 10 Sep, and 26 Sep (DTh). A female was at Holst SF *Boone* 30 Aug (DCH). Beam Woods *Jones* produced one individual 29 Sep (CRE). The latest report was 2 Oct *Polk* (AB).

**Scarlet Tanager:** One was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 4 Aug followed by 2 on 9 Sep (RLC). Late dates included one at L Macbride *Johnson* 15 and 19 Sep (MHB, JLF).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** The latest fall report was an immature/female at F.W. Kent P *Johnson* 10 Oct (LGR).

**Blue Grosbeak:** There were 16 reports. The majority came from Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF, CRE, MHB, LGR) 1–19 Aug, where a pair was likely breeding. Other observations were 3 Aug *Black Hawk* and 25 Aug at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TGS). A notable county find was one in Ames *Story* 19 Aug (TMH). The latest was 26 Sep at Luton WA *Woodbury* (GLV).

**Indigo Bunting:** The latest was 15 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

**PAINTED BUNTING:** An adult male was found 8 Aug by Paul Domoto at AHHP *Story* and confirmed the same day (WO, MP, RGo, \*AB, \*JB, \*MHB, \*TMH). Many subsequent observers saw the bird up until 17 Aug. It stayed near a path along the northern part of the park, where it regularly sang and chased other birds while defending its territory.

**Dickcissel:** There were three reports, all from Central Iowa. The last two were 9 Nov *Jasper* (KVS).

## COMMENTS

Many thanks to all who submitted records over eBird or sent them in personally. Without these records, this report would simply not be writable. I am indebted to the following sources of data, without which these excellent, independent sources the picture of the Iowa fall ornithological season would not be as clear. These include: Iowa DNR August Roadside Surveys, IA-Bird Listserv, Illinois Natural History Survey, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, USFWS waterfowl counts at DeSoto NWR, Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA), eBird, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Data submitted by Kelly McKay (KMc) were collected by the concerted effort of the following individuals: Kelly McKay, Britt Vickstrom, Mark Roberts, and Chuck Jacobsen.



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# Hitchcock Nature Center Hawk Watch Report, Fall 2018

*Bethany Thornton*

## OVERVIEW

The Hitchcock Hawk Watch had a bit of a rough year due to weather. Of the 104 days in the season, 31 were significantly affected by inclement weather and poor visibility: 17 days of considerable precipitation, 11 days of dense fog or low clouds, and 3 days on which conditions were so severe counts could not be conducted. Regardless of the challenging conditions, 7005 raptors were detected – down 30% from the 2002–2017 average of 10,029. Raptor numbers were somewhat lower than average every month of the season, but November and December saw the greatest drop in detections with both months coming in with fewer than a third of the average number of birds detected for those months in previous years. Overall, counters logged 643 hours of observation, and saw 10.9 birds per hour.

**Table 1. Raptor counts at Hitchcock Nature Center during the fall 2018 season.**

Black Vulture	0	Golden Eagle	11
Turkey Vulture	2766	American Kestrel	48
Osprey	105	Merlin	32
Bald Eagle	386	Peregrine Falcon	52
Northern Harrier	124	Prairie Falcon	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	286	Gyr Falcon	0
Cooper's Hawk	216	Mississippi Kite	6
Northern Goshawk	9	Unknown Accipiter	17
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	Unknown Buteo	17
Broad-winged Hawk	996	Unknown Falcon	4
Red-tailed Hawk	1253	Unknown Eagle	1
Rough-legged Hawk	13	Unknown Raptor	19
Swainson's Hawk	632	TOTAL RAPTORS	7005
Ferruginous Hawk	0	TOTAL HOURS	643

## SPECIES ANALYSIS

In spite of bad weather and lower bird numbers, 2018 had a few notable occurrences. Broad-winged Hawks were detected at well above average numbers with 996 individuals, versus the average of only 579. Swainson's Hawks, though not above average, made their first real comeback since 2014 with 632. Most of the other species seen this year were within the normal range of what would be expected. Osprey (105), Northern Goshawk (9), Red-shouldered Hawk (8), Peregrine Falcon (52), and Prairie Falcon (4) all came in at slightly above average numbers; while Turkey Vulture (2766), Northern Harrier (124), Cooper's Hawk (216), Red-tailed Hawk (1253), Rough-legged Hawk (13), Golden Eagle (11), American Kestrel (48), and Merlin (32) came in a little below average. Bald Eagles and Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen at record lows this year with 386 and 286 detections respectively. On 3 October, 605 Turkey Vultures were recorded which marked the highest single day count of Turkey Vultures in Hitchcock's history. Three other species made it to second-highest day counts: Northern Harrier with 44, Cooper's Hawk with 40, and Red-shouldered Hawk with 3. No Ferruginous Hawks or rarities were seen this year. All in all, 18 species of raptor were recorded.

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# **Raptor Banding at Hitchcock Hawk Watch, Fall 2018**

*Jerry Toll*

## DIURNAL RAPTOR BANDING

One hundred forty-two diurnal raptors of 7 species were captured during the fall 2018 season. Daytime banding got off to a slow start with only 13 raptors banded from 8 Sep, opening day, through 22 Sep, although the only banded Red-shouldered Hawk occurred on the 12th. In the 11-year history of the banding station, this is usually a productive time when the Red-tailed Hawks in the first year of life begin arriving and being caught. Young Red-tails really began getting captured in earnest on 23 Sep and dominated the operation until 4 Oct with only two adult Red-tails during that period. Our most productive day was 4 Oct with 16 raptors banded, 14 of which were Red-tails, but only four of those were adults. Young Red-tails tend to migrate before the adults at Hitchcock and tend to migrate further south than the adults. This occurs most fall seasons and is supported by band returns on recaptured, injured, or dead Red-tails banded at Hitchcock. During the remainder of the banding season, 5 Oct to 29 Nov, adult Red-tails played a larger role. There were 26 adults compared to 38 juveniles banded during that period. The most productive period for Red-tails was 23 Sep to 28 Oct, and typically so, with 89 banded, bringing the total for the season to 109.

The percentage of juvenile (hatch-year) Red-tails compared to adults was 72%, equal to the 11-year mean. The formal banding season ends 1 Nov but incidental banding continued when conditions seemed optimal until 29 Nov. Capture rates typically drop precipitously in November but late season migrant species are targeted during this time such as Prairie Falcon and Rough-legged Hawk. An additional six raptors were banded in November, none of which were the targeted species.

Sharp-shinned Hawks are the second most reliable raptor species captured at Hitchcock. Only 19 captures occurred, the lowest seasonal total on record at Hitchcock, well below the seasonal average of 30. There were logistical problems that contributed to the low number such as using a substitute lure bird until 15 Oct and losing seven days of banding due to rain. Despite this, the rate of capture, which is a comparison between raptors captured and raptors that were possible to capture but were not, did not seem bad, but there was just not much opportunity for encounters.

A similar condition existed for Cooper's Hawks, the third most reliable raptor species. Only nine Cooper's Hawks were banded, well below the 11-year average of 15. Four of the last five years of banding have been below the 11-year average for this species.

Additional species captured during the season included two Broad-winged Hawks captured 23 Sep and 2 Oct, a Peregrine Falcon captured 25 Sep, a Red-shouldered Hawk captured 12 Sep, and a Swainson's Hawk captured 30 Sep.

## NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL BANDING

Northern Saw-whet Owls begin arriving most years about the end of the first week of October. Nets were opened on 6 Oct; however, the first capture of the season did not occur until 22 Oct, the slowest start in the history of Saw-whet banding at Hitchcock. Following a record high of 101 Saw-whets banded in 2017, the 17 Saw-whets banded in 2018 was a record low season. Other Saw-whet banding stations in Minnesota (Michelle Cook, personal communication 2018), South Dakota (Kent Jensen, personal communication 2018), and Missouri (Dana Ripper, personal communication 2018) also had below average captures. Saw-whets demonstrate cyclical migratory population fluctuations with intervals roughly 4–5 years in duration (De Ruyck et al. 2012). At Hitchcock, 2013 and 2009 were the previous low seasons with captures of 25 and 36 respectively. These low seasons usually correspond with a low percentage of juvenile owls compared to adult owls suggesting low annual nestling survival. In the 2018 season, only 5.8% were juveniles (1 of 17); in 2013, 20% were juveniles (5 of 25). This did not happen in 2009 when 72% (26 of 36) were juveniles; however, 2009 was our first full season of Northern Saw-whet Owl banding and the previous year may have been the actual low year in the cycle.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pottawattamie County Conservation Board and Foundation continues to be fundamental to the success of the Raptor Banding Project. Audubon Society of Omaha



for the past 2 seasons has partnered to finance a portion of the Saw-whet Owl Project. The skill, compassion and good company of fellow banders Sandy Reinken and Abbe Richardson keep the station humming. Kris Hammond, Steve Schmitt, Kellie Hayden, and Brody Knott stepped in and volunteered their banding skills with the Saw-whets when I injured my knee. Chad Graeve, Jeff Franco, and Kody Wahler, all staff at Hitchcock Nature Center, have been instrumental for over a decade now, seeing the value in what we do and making things happen.

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Northern Saw-whet Owl, Hitchcock NC, Pottawattomie, 15 Nov 2017. Photograph by Jerry Toll, Omaha, NE.

# **Book Review: *Peterson Guide to Bird Identification – in 12 Steps* by Steve N.G. Howell and Brian Sullivan**

*Richard Hollis*

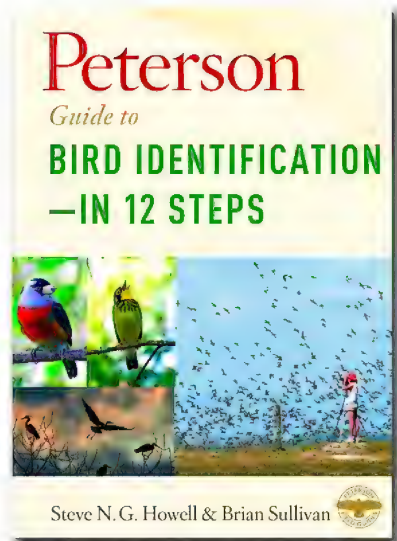
This book provides a good deal of insight into the confusing things about bird identification, and is well worth the short time it takes to read and think about it. The authors' stated goal is to offer a resource "to people of all levels" — to help beginners through the techniques of observation and identification and to give more experienced birders a chance to preview and refresh the same things. To do that, the authors know that there will be some things that challenge beginners and others that may be too basic for experienced birders. The book could do both if people give it a chance.

Other recent books (Armistead and Sullivan 2015, Kaufman 2011, Lovitch 2012) guide the reader through the process of bird identification. This offering is the newest and the smallest, smaller than any modern field guide. It is not just text, as there are photos on nearly every other page. Many pictures are useful, while others are the kind of things that editors must like, such as pictures of people birding from a boat or a person sitting in the mountains while writing in their notebook.

It would be impossible to review this book without talking about the authors' steps. These are not deep secrets as they are similar to the identification steps that many of us use ourselves and teach to others. These include taxonomy, location, habitat, season, lighting, distance, behavior, sound, structure, plumage, variation, and notes.

In their discussion about taxonomy the authors point out how much we know and use concepts before pointing out how useful that is to the birder. I found their comments on the taxonomic order of species in field guides and species concepts to be refreshing. They point out how the most important part of taxonomy for birders is knowledge of bird families. Worrying about the order of families and species is not useful in the field. In this chapter the authors suggest that if the Gray Flycatcher were poisonous and if the Dusky Flycatcher were edible and delicious, we would have learned to tell them apart far earlier than they were recognized as separate species.

Quick, what is the most important part of your favorite field guide? The authors argue that it is the maps. Birds are found mostly where they are expected. The maps and the assumptions they give us are great places to start the identification process.



But it is also pointed out that if you bird enough you will see birds in areas where they supposedly do not belong. Even though maps can be infuriating and wrong, anyone who has used field guides without maps would agree that it is nicer to have them.

The authors point out that just as there are degrees in location, there are also degrees in season. Season varies with date and location. At one time, details about local bird distribution and timing were pretty limited to a small circle of veteran birders. But now anyone can look up information on eBird. Seasonal distribution charts are easy to find for almost any place. I feel the authors should have mentioned that for eBird data, these charts are only as good as the number of sightings and quality of the inputs.

Three of the first four steps mostly involved where the bird was seen. Now the authors move on to what we see and how that affects identification. The authors devote considerable attention to the sounds birds make as well. They point out how useful writing down what we hear can be. They go on to cite Sibley's (2002) advice on describing sound, but not Pieplow's (2017), which I believe provides an easier and more standardized way of describing what we hear.

People are frequently advised to take notes, but I rarely see people in the field doing so. If you use field checklists, you put your checks down or may write numbers. With eBird, people whip out their apps, and enter the species without details. The authors share some pages of Howell's field notebooks and one of Sullivan's detailed eBird entries (which includes sketches of behavior), giving good examples of what one can do. They admit, of course, that keeping really good notes is work and that it is up to you whether you chose to or not.

I like this book. The authors are well-respected birders and their guide is well written with touches of humor. The "steps" are presented in a conversational style. They do not go over exact identification details for all species, but for each step they go over the kinds of problems that we can encounter when applying these steps. It is my opinion that most birders, whether fledglings, old timers, or someone in between, will benefit from reading this book, and it would make a nice addition to a birding library.

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# Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

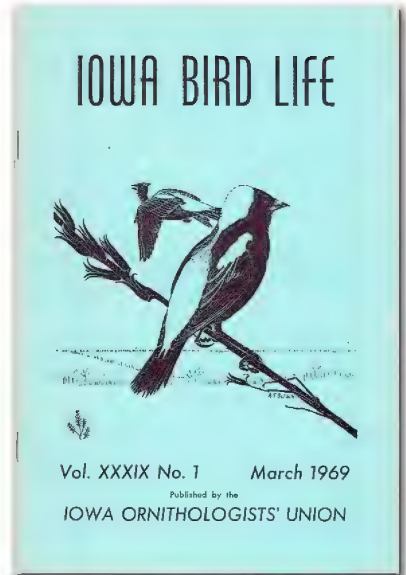
James J. Dinsmore

The lead article in the March 1969 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* is one by Milton Weller describing the distribution of Yellow-headed Blackbird nesting colonies in Iowa. Field work was done during 1960 and 1961 and results are presented for 26 wetlands or groups of wetlands where nesting colonies were found. Most were within the Prairie Pothole region of Iowa. Note: this survey has been repeated twice with results in *Iowa Bird Life* 58:38–39, 74:153–157.

The results of the 1968 Christmas Bird Count, compiled by John Faaborg, comprise the longest article in the issue. A total of 24 counts were made and 104 species were found, both totals down from the previous year. Davenport again had the most species with 75 followed by Clinton with 62. Waterfowl made a good showing with 15 species including Blue-winged Teal, Red-breasted Merganser, and White-winged Scoter being found. Winter finches also had a good year with Purple Finches, Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks all being more abundant than in the previous year. Also of note, only two (!) Canada Geese, 31 Wild Turkeys (one count), and 113 Bald Eagles were found. Times, they have changed.

Dean Roosa compiled a summary of bird banding in Iowa during 1968. Thirteen individuals or organizations banded 21,081 birds of 177 species. The Iowa Conservation Commission and Peter Petersen were the most active banders and accounted for 60% of the birds banded. The most frequently banded species were Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, and Mourning Dove. Only a single individual of 14 species was banded. Among these were Merlin, Greater Yellowlegs, Western Sandpiper, Townsend's Solitaire, and LeConte's Sparrow.

The field reports described a harsh winter with the number of birds being seen down somewhat. Good finds included a Varied Thrush in Storm Lake, a Townsend's Solitaire in Des Moines, a Bohemian Waxwing in Cedar Falls, a mild invasion of Evening Grosbeaks, and a fairly good showing by various winter finches. A few short notes and book reviews round out the issue.



646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)



# IOU

## Profit & Loss

January through December 2018

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Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
5200 Meeting Income	12,477.95
5300 Merchandise Sales	364.59
5350 Sales - Online	15.67
5450 Silent Auctions	1,089.50
5900 Interest Income	270.85
Donations	
5100 Donations - Unspecified	1,064.59
Total Donations	1,064.59
Dues	
4012 Fledgling Dues	15.00
4020 Goldfinch Dues	1,640.00
4035 Bluebird Dues	6,235.00
4050 Baltimore Oriole Dues	4,100.00
4075 Great Egret Dues	1,340.00
4100 Osprey Dues	4,670.00
4250 Bald Eagle Dues	250.00
4800 Institutions Dues	715.00
Total Dues	18,965.00
Total Income	34,248.15
Expense	
6200 Meeting Expenses	7,502.87
6600 Insurance-Liability	557.00
6900 Bank & Pay Pal Exp.	604.44
7000 - Other Expense	21.79
Committees	
6708 Committees - Conserv/Proj	4,999.95
Total Committees	4,999.95
Publications	
6110 Publications - IA Bird Lif	6,101.17
6120 Publications -Internet Svc	99.95
Total Publications	6,201.12
Sales Expense	
6300 Merchandise Purchase	330.56
Total Sales Expense	330.56
Total Expense	20,217.73
Net Ordinary Income	14,030.42
Net Income	14,030.42

IOU  
Balance Sheet  
As of December 31, 2018

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ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1150 Checking - 1st Citizens 45,419.19

1450 Checking - Comm 1st CU 52,315.24

1550 Savings - Comm 1st CU 5.00

Total Checking/Savings 97,739.43

Accounts Receivable

Accounts Receivable 40.00

Total Accounts Receivable 40.00

Total Current Assets 97,779.43

TOTAL ASSETS 97,779.43

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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

3000 General Operating Fund GOF 36,046.57

Fund Balances

3200 Life Membership Fund 13,263.89

3220 Projects 1,296.55

3300 Memorial Fund 11,882.79

3400 Publication Enhancement 14,689.21

3500 BBA Fund 6,570.00

Total Fund Balances 47,702.44

Net Income 14,030.42

Total Equity 97,779.43

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 97,779.43

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**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES** (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) \$20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) \$30, Institutional (foreign) \$45, Goldfinch \$25 (electronic only), Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <[www.iowabirds.org](http://www.iowabirds.org)>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct, Johnson, IA 50131 ([cecillethompson@gmail.com](mailto:cecillethompson@gmail.com)).

**INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:** Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at [vistesparrow@gmail.com](mailto:vistesparrow@gmail.com). Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

**Photos and graphics:** Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (\*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Submit photos and graphics as e-mail attachments. Photos and captions should be emailed to [IBLPhotos@iowabirds.org](mailto:IBLPhotos@iowabirds.org).

Deadlines for submission are 1 January for winter issue (Vol. xx[1]), 1 April for spring issue [2], 1 July for summer issue [3], 1 October for fall issue [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

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**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT:** Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 ([cjcaster@q.com](mailto:cjcaster@q.com)).

**BIRD SIGHTINGS:** Subscribe at <[www.iowabirds.org](http://www.iowabirds.org)>

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**FRONT COVER PHOTO:** Parasitic Jaeger, Saylorville Reservoir, *Polk*, 28 August 2018. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

**BACK COVER PHOTO:** Red-breasted Nuthatch, *Boone*, 9 September 2018. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

LAYOUT: Paul Hertzel, Mason City, IA

PRINTER: Centennial Printing, Louisville, CO



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# IOWA BIRD LIFE

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## IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



Spring 2019 . Volume 89 . Number 2



## IOWA BIRD LIFE

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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* is a quarterly publication of the Union.

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# Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2018–2019

*Chris Caster*

Reports were submitted for 53 counts this season. Worth County returned. A report was not filed for Buchanan County.

Early December brought below average temperatures with highs in the 20s. But by count time, Iowa was experiencing temperatures well above normal. Counts from 16 to 19 December reported highs in the upper 40s. December 20th brought a decline in temperatures which culminated with highs in the teens on the 29th (Glisan 2018). Temperatures again climbed in January with counts on the 5th reaching 60°F. The majority of counts did not report any snow, although a few counts in the NE and NW had 2 to 4 inches.

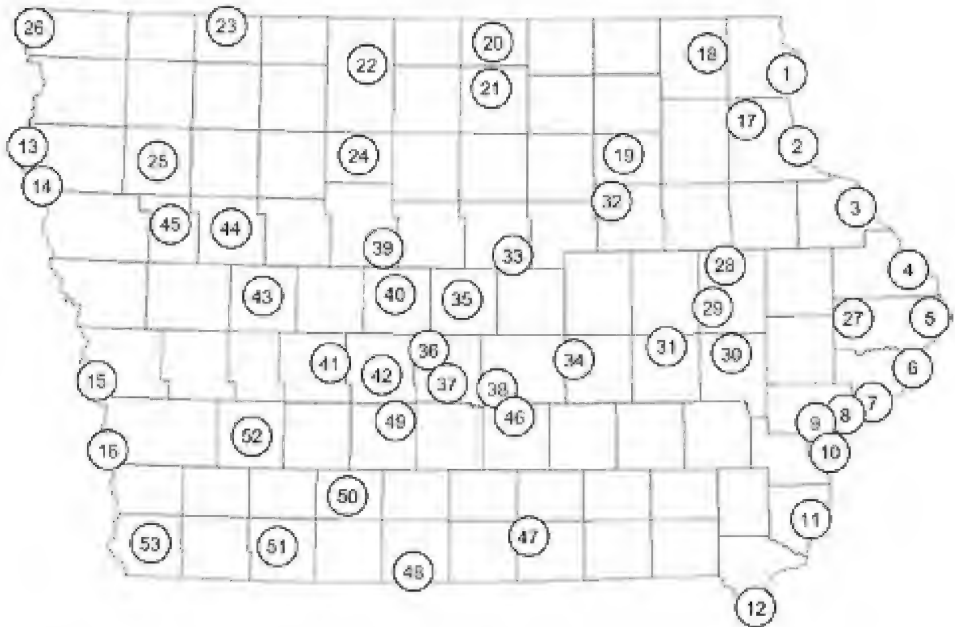
The species count of 141 and the total birds (680,737) were slightly above our averages. However, individual counts were relatively diminished. Saylorville led the way with 86 species and Davenport recorded 85. Both those counts had highs of 100 in recent years. Other high counts were: Burlington (84), Clinton, Des Moines, and Red Rock (82). NW Clayton County (64) led the northern counts. DeSoto (80) led the Missouri River counts. The average count this year had 14 field observers, six field parties, and 57 species.

## REGULAR SPECIES

Eight regular species were found in record numbers this count. Geese and swans were found in large numbers, but duck numbers were greatly reduced. Raptors and owls were generally plentiful. Gulls were scarce. Frugivores, sparrows, blackbirds, and finches were somewhat reduced. Frequently reported species are recorded in Table 2. Species found on three or fewer counts are recorded in Table 3.

Canada Geese (200,524) and Cackling Geese (3,972) were both abundant. Greater White-fronted Geese (10,269) were in unprecedented numbers. They had never posted numbers over 2,000 before. They were scattered across 21 counts, but Western Mercer County had over 8,000 alone. Snow Geese (29,307) had their best count in nearly 20 by a vast margin. Ross's Geese (19) approached record numbers. Trumpeter Swans (1,837) were in record numbers and on 30 counts. Tundra Swans (1,222) also counted well across eight counts. Twenty were at Amana. A Mute Swan was reported from Des Moines.

Gadwalls (157) were the most numerous of the dabblers, other than Mallards (48,836), which were well off their average. They were followed by Green-winged Teal (78). American Black Ducks (29) had their worst count in over 30 years, although counts in the 30s and 40s are frequent. Even Canvasbacks (6,440) were only a fourth of their usual number. Common Goldeneyes (6,299) and the other divers were also well below their averages. Buffleheads (913) were the exception at nearly three times theirs. Greater Scaup (305)



*Figure 1. Christmas bird counts in Iowa, 2018-2019 (see Table 1)*

were primarily at Keokuk, but Red Rock added 7 and single birds were at Spirit Lake and Des Moines. Common Mergansers (7,775) and Red-breasted Mergansers (17) were both nearly average. Hooded Mergansers (64) were about half theirs. Lone Surf and White-winged scoters were at Red Rock. A Long-tailed Duck was at Clinton.

Pied-billed Grebes were at Cedar Rapids and Shenandoah. Double-crested Cormorants (6) were scarce, recorded on just five counts. American White Pelicans (161) had their lowest count in 10. Great Blue Herons (161), Sandhill Cranes (92), and Belted Kingfishers (159) all had very good counts. Eighty-two cranes were at Clinton. American Coots (45), Killdeer (9), and Wilson's Snipes (6) were hard to find. Ring-billed Gulls (19,470) and Herring Gulls (2,147) were in decent numbers, but gulls were lacking otherwise. A lone Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Davenport and no Iceland or Glaucous Gulls were reported.

Northern Bobwhites (53) returned to typical numbers from last year's 140 birds. Wild Turkeys (1,753) and Ring-necked Pheasants (832) were slightly below average. Gray Partridge (30) were found on four counts with 23 at Mason City. Eurasian Collared-Doves (981) remained above their average, while Rock Pigeons (11,858) and Mourning Doves (3,374) fell below theirs.

Bald Eagles (3,125) were only in fair numbers. Northern Harriers (159) neared recent record highs. Cooper's Hawks (121) were in good numbers, but



Sharp-shinned Hawks (50) had their worst count in over 20. Red-shouldered Hawks (30) were in record numbers on 12 counts, besting last year's record by 10. Rough-legged Hawks (165) were wintering in modest numbers. Golden Eagles (7) were average with 4 eagles at SE Clayton County. American Kestrels (492) were in fair numbers. Merlins (35) again set a new high. Peregrine Falcons (5) were at their average.

Eastern Screech-Owls (140) and Great Horned Owls (274) had good counts. Barred Owls (288) were again in record numbers. Long-eared Owls (33) were about average. Short-eared Owls (20) and Northern Saw-whet Owls (13) both cut last year's record highs by half. No Snowy Owls were found this count.

Red-headed Woodpeckers (753) bested their previous record by over 100. Red-bellied Woodpeckers (2,806) had a near-record year. Downy Woodpeckers (2,815), Hairy Woodpeckers (785), Northern Flickers (697), and Pileated Woodpeckers (169) all had good counts. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (24), however, were only half their average.

Northern Shrikes (29) had not come south in large numbers. Loggerhead Shrikes (5) rarely reported in recent years, were at Taylor and Union counties. Blue Jays (6,280) and American Crows (72,339) were abundant.

Black-capped Chickadees (5,080) had their worst count in 10. Tufted Titmice (518) numbers dipped beneath what had been a 30-year low last year. Perhaps the mild weather kept them away from feeders. However White-breasted Nuthatches (3,157) managed average numbers. This was the second straight year that Red-breasted Nuthatches (272) were found in irruption numbers. Brown Creepers (329) were in fair numbers. Carolina Wrens (283) had a near-record count. After two stellar counts, Winter Wrens (41) returned to more typical numbers. Golden-crowned Kinglets (54) fell to half of what they were last year. Ruby-crowned Kinglets (4) were on three counts with 2 at Muscatine.

Eastern Bluebirds (1,257) had a good count, but American Robins (1,176) were only one-sixth their usual. After a couple of tremendous counts, Hermit Thrushes (52) fell to average numbers. Northern Mockingbirds (9) had another good count thanks to 6 at Green Island. A Gray Catbird (3) was again at Cedar Rapids. Others were at Green Island, Bremer County, and a count week bird was at Ames. Brown Thrashers (3) were at Davenport, Andalusia, and Lost Nation. Cedar Waxwings (3,772) dipped somewhat below the average. Yellow-rumped Warblers (78) were found in fair numbers, but only a fourth of last year's total. Iowa is prime starling habitat and European Starlings (55,388) never fail to overwhelm. Keokuk took honors with over 7,000.

Six Eastern Towhees were found, but no Spotted. American Tree (11,346), Fox (20), and Song sparrows (591) all dropped below the average. Four Lincoln's and 12 Field sparrows were reported. A lone Savannah Sparrow was at Burlington. Swamp Sparrows (238) were in very good numbers. White-throat-

ed Sparrows (1,688) established a new high, while White-crowned Sparrows (139) were only average. Harris's Sparrows (63) had their worst count in over 10. And Dark-eyed Juncos (17,305) were in relatively reduced numbers.

Horned Larks (745) were widespread but not plentiful, and were missed on quite a few counts. Lapland Longspurs (996) were also relatively difficult to find. Snow Buntings (60) were even scarcer. Red-winged Blackbirds (72,692) had one of their best counts in 30 years. Common Grackles (12,213) were also abundant. Meadowlarks (477) were below average despite 99 at Shenandoah. Rusty Blackbirds (152) were about average. Brown-headed Cowbirds (759) were half theirs.

Northern Cardinals (6,549) and Purple Finches (543) were about average. House Finches (1,832) were well off theirs. Common Redpolls (9) were on just three counts. Pine Siskins (1,121) jumped to twice the average. American Goldfinch (2,446) counts have declined steadily in recent years and have reached a low not seen in over 30. House Sparrows (19,851) were below-average, but Eurasian Tree Sparrows (2,856) were found in record numbers. They were again reported north to SE Clayton County and westward to Eldora-Union. One was also at Rathbun.

#### NOTABLE MISSES

Brewer's Blackbird hadn't been missed for 22 years. Spotted Towhee hadn't been missed for 14. Other notable misses included: Glaucous Gull, Iceland/Thayer's Gull (8 of last 10), Northern Goshawk, Black-billed Magpie, Yellow-headed Blackbird (7 of last 10), Blue-winged Teal, Vesper Sparrow, Red Crossbill, and White-winged Crossbill (6 of last 10).

#### UNCOMMON SPECIES

New to the Iowa CBC this year was a Western Tanager at Mason City. It is the only December record for this species in Iowa, although vagrants to the East have occurred into January (Kent and Dinsmore 1996). A Spotted Sandpiper was found along the Mississippi near Camanche on the Princeton count. Although it was a very unusual find, it was not without precedent. A Spotted Sandpiper had wintered in Dubuque from 7 Dec 1976 to 14 Jan 1977 (Kent and Dinsmore 1996) and was reported on the CBC that year. A House Wren was discovered on the Red Rock count. As unusual as the sandpiper, it also was not new to the CBC. One had been on the Yellow River Forest count 22 Dec 1979 (Kent and Dinsmore 1996). And to complete a five wren slam, a Sedge Wren was found on the Shenandoah count. That species was last on the CBC 20 Dec 1986 in Cedar Rapids (Kent and Dinsmore 1996).

Last year, a Burlington Dickcissel was new to the CBC. Amazingly, another was found this year at Bremer County. In another repeat performance, a Franklin's Gull was on the Des Moines count after being found on the Saylorville count last year. Perhaps it was the same bird? And a Great Egret has

now appeared on a Mississippi River count for the third straight year. This time it was at Clinton. Last year one was at Davenport and at Burlington the year before. Get ready, Dubuque.

Very exciting was the report of 2 Ruffed Grouse on the SE Clayton County count. Historically reported by either Decorah or Yellow River Forest, grouse had been missed on the six previous counts.

Warblers are becoming regular on our CBCs. This year an Orange-crowned Warbler was at Saylorville. Common Yellowthroats were found at both Saylorville and Muscatine. An Eastern Phoebe was at Clinton. Three Chipping Sparrows were at Mason City. That species has now been on five of the last eight CBCs.

There were other birds from somewhat more regularly found species. A Common Loon was at Burlington. A Turkey Vulture was at Omaha. A count week Prairie Falcon was at Ames. A Marsh Wren was at DeSoto NWR. Lastly, Des Moines reported 16 Great-tailed Grackles and Omaha added one.

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*Black-capped Chickadee, Mason City, Cerro Gordo, 14 Dec 2018. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*

Table 1. Site Data for 2018–2019 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Obs	Field Pts	Hr	Miles Car
MISSISSIPPI RIVER							
1. Yellow River Forest	20-Dec	48	2,826	14	6	37.1	229.0
2. SE Clayton County	4-Jan	75	7,234	4	2	22.75	231.0
3. Dubuque	29-Dec	51	5,918	14	7	18	254.0
4. Green Island	14-Dec	76	8,623	25	7	44.25	315.0
5. Clinton	18-Dec	82	16,533	15	5	41.5	336.0
6. Princeton	19-Dec	70	9,658	15	6	47	358.0
7. Davenport	16-Dec	85	24,543	21	9	70.25	378.0
8. Andalusia	24-Dec	76	7,327	10	4	36.25	287.0
9. Muscatine	26-Dec	72	6,960	11	5	41.25	333.0
10. W Mercer County	21-Dec	72	17,764	12	6	49.5	351.0
11. Burlington	15-Dec	84	10,565	18	8	64	320.0
12. Keokuk	17-Dec	77	41,272	10	4	35.5	349.0
MISSOURI RIVER							
13. Westfield	20-Dec	42	6,930	10	5	27.5	248.0
14. Sioux City	15-Dec	63	12,152	19	9	60.5	664.0
15. DeSoto NWR	22-Dec	80	30,414	35	13	90	554.0
16. Omaha	19-Dec	65	39,428	31	12	64.75	402.5
NORTHERN THIRD							
17. NW Clayton County	3-Jan	64	4,559	4	2	23.5	188.0
18. Decorah	22-Dec	48	3,897	27	8	42.7	381.0
19. Bremer County	15-Dec	47	8,816	12	7	50	463.0
20. Worth County	1-Jan	36	2,355	6	3	26	240.0
21. Mason City	15-Dec	58	50,879	20	8	65.5	378.5
22. Union Slough NWR	3-Jan	36	1,415	18	7	41	548.7
23. Spirit Lake	15-Dec	54	15,067	4	2	17	242.0
24. Humboldt County	20-Dec	38	2,816	4	3	21.25	173.5
25. Cherokee	21-Dec	32	1,608	4	2	8	201.0
26. Canton	30-Dec	42	1,779	10	4	29.5	426.0
MIDDLE THIRD							
27. Lost Nation	17-Dec	63	5,412	14	6	40.5	391.6
28. North Linn	27-Dec	38	2,942	5	3	24.5	181.0
29. Cedar Rapids	15-Dec	60	8,117	10	6	40	219.0
30. Iowa City	16-Dec	64	8,930	29	9	49.2	404.0
31. Amana	22-Dec	49	2,176	12	3	24	55.0
32. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	22-Dec	62	18,499	15	8	51	431.0
33. Eldora-Union	20-Dec	33	2,705	11	3	21.5	118.9
34. Grinnell	22-Dec	32	3,333	7	4	28	50.0
35. Ames	15-Dec	72	29,000	32	16	104.5	403.0
36. Saylorville Reservoir	16-Dec	86	19,988	26	13	78	494.0
37. Des Moines	22-Dec	82	101,146	23	14	81.5	457.0
38. Neal Smith NWR	5-Jan	49	6,079	25	6	25.92	253.1
39. SE Webster County	15-Dec	35	4,283	8	3	38	177.0
40. Boone County	29-Dec	58	5,965	24	9	59	459.0
41. Jamaica	14-Dec	62	13,504	11	6	31	290.0
42. Dallas County	15-Dec	41	2,588	23	7	31	224.0
43. Carroll County	19-Dec	45	1,522	3	1	8.25	100.0
44. Sac County	29-Dec	35	1,407	8	3	27	94.0
45. Ida County	5-Jan	40	1,872	15	5	35	281.8
SOUTHERN THIRD							
46. Red Rock Reservoir	15-Dec	82	25,232	13	8	47.75	342.6
47. Rathbun Reservoir	14-Dec	53	23,492	13	5	41.75	381.0
48. Lamoni	29-Dec	55	9,270	6	3	27	334.0
49. NE Madison County	20-Dec	48	6,392	12	10	31.25	175.5
50. Union County	21-Dec	60	18,301	2	1	10	122.0
51. Taylor County	29-Dec	39	2,580	5	5	8	164.0
52. Cass County	29-Dec	34	2,719	12	3	15	159.0
53. Shenandoah	15-Dec	57	11,945	4	2	14	160.0
TOTALS		141	680,737				



Miles Ft	Owling Hr	Owling Mi	Feeder Pt	Feeder Hr	Tem L	Tem H	Snow Depth	Wind
18	4	16	0	0	33	39	0	unk. 10-14
3	4	41	3	7	26	48	3	SW 0-5
20	2	10	1	1	23	27	1	S 5-10
10.25	6.75	22	0	0	28	38	0	N 0-9
2.25	4	39	0	0	19	44	0	S 0-10
13.5*	5.75	33	0	0	34	50	0	S 0-10
23.5	11.5	131	3	7.5	23	48	0	W 0-5
6.5	6.25	53	0	0	19	38	0	E 0-5
14	6	53	7	10	23	42	0	E 0-10
11.5	8.25	78	0	0	32	38	0	NW 10-15
54	1	9	3	18	28	46	0	S 3-10
9	1.5	12	0	0	30	50	0	N 0-10
10	1.5	5	1	2	30	39	3	NW 15
16.25	3	3	3	6.5	18	42	1	SE 0-15
30.5	1.5	15	1	0.75	27	35	3	unk. 5-15
27.8	1	15.3	1	3	35	48	0.25	S 0-15
5	5.5	29	1	3	17	39	2	S 0-5
20.6	4.25	15.5	7	6	23	32	2	SW 0-8
14	0	0	0	0	17	45	0	S 5-10
9.1	0	0	0	0	3	10	0.5	NW 5-12
24.8	1	1	6	6	17	41	2.5	SE 6
7.25	0	0	0	0	24	47	0.5	NE 2-16
3	0.5	0	4	5	17	38	3	S 5-15
7	3.5	20.25	0	0	27	36	0	NNW 7-26
0	0	0	0	0	24	29	0.25	SE 0-11
5.4	5	29	1	2	20	34	5	SW 6-15
9.5	2.75	14	0	0	27	45	0	NW 5-10
0.5	2.75	40	0	0	38	48	0	unk. 10-30
9	2.5	15	2	8	23	47	0	unk. 1-5
18	2	15	9	18.5	21	51	0	NW 0-12
4	4	15	2	5	20	28	0	SE/NW 7-8
15	2	12	1	3	22	32	0	S 5-10
6	0.5	9	0	0	36	36	0	NW 10-15
20	3	6	2	12	24	34	0	NW 3-7
38.5	4	19	9	21	19	51	0	S 0-8
32.25	7.25	42	0	0	26	51	0	NW 0-10
45	3	20	7	28	25	35	0	NW 5-15
8.25	4.25	66.7	1	3	24	60	0	W 3-13
0	0	0	1	2	19	35	1	S 5-10
26.5	4	2	8	52	9	16	1	NW 5-15
7	1	10	0	0	26	42	0	calm
15.5	0	0	0	0	19	50	0	calm
3.32	1.7	23	3	4	39	43	4	WSW 6-21
5.5	0	0	3	4	-1	16	0.5	SW 8-12
12	0.5	2	0	0	28	58	0	calm
18.1	3.25	17	0	0	14	38	0.25	NE 0-11
3.5	5.5	58.25	5	16	27	38	0	N 5-15
8	0	0	1	3	6	21	0	NW 6-10
8	0	0	2	12	30	41	0	NW 10-16
6	0.5	3	0	0	26	35	0	NE 0-8
0	0	0	0	0	9	24	0.25	S 5-10
3.75	0	0	0	0	5	18	1	NE 0-5
1	1	0	0	0	29	38	0	unk. 0-2

\*Includes 8 miles by boat

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2018–2019

Location	Gr										Am		Gr		Ri			
	Sn Go	Ro Go	W-f Go	Cack Go	Ca Go	Tr Sw	Tu Sw	Wo Du	No Sh	Am Wi	Ma	Am Bl Du	No Pi	Gr Wi Te		Ca	Re	Ne Du
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																		
1. Yellow River Forest					91							337						
2. SE Clayton County			1	14	2665	57	16			2		486			2	37		2
3. Dubuque					3002	66						148	2					
4. Green Island				9	1914	58	136			3		44				428		
5. Clinton	8		12		4973	77	1039	3		25		3635	5			1069	11	
6. Princeton	3		130	1	1410	52		1	2	1		133						
7. Davenport			3	15	5180	3		2		4		907	2	2	3	193		23
8. Andalusia	10			2	404							120		1				
9. Muscatine				9	919					3		155				6		
10. W Mercer County	6		8370	8	918				3			3684	2					
11. Burlington			cw	505	4015	56			1	33		570			20	34	3	1
12. Keokuk			11		1768	70				48		240				4665	20	442
Subtotals	27	0	8527	563	27259	439	1191	6	6	119	0	10459	11	3	25	6432	34	468
MISSOURI RIVER																		
13. Westfield		15			2500	3643						30						
14. Sioux City		2	4	34	110	8218			4	1		255			3		4	2
15. De Soto NWR		2007	2	750	9	16302	83			1	4	6057	5	9	1		2	31
16. Omaha		27136	7	193	131	6672	4					80			1	40		
Subtotals	29160	13	977	2750	34835	87	0	0	4	2	4	6422	5	10	44	0	6	33
NORTHERN THIRD																		
17. NW Clayton County					52													
18. Decorah					1063							14						
19. Bremer County				5	4850							276				2		
20. Worth County					1297	40												
21. Mason City				2	7517	51					1	552	cw					
22. Union Slough NWR					1	19						2						
23. Spirit Lake	1		1	57	10950	2		1		2		276	1	1			3	
24. Humboldt County					1403							54						
25. Cherokee																		
26. Canton					4							1						
Subtotals	1	0	1	64	27137	112	0	1	0	2	1	1175	1	1	0	2	3	0
MIDDLE THIRD																		
27. Lost Nation					102	4	1					3			1			
28. North Linn					376													
29. Cedar Rapids					1773	29						863			1			
30. Iowa City	1			9	3327					8		1020				4	2	
31. Amana			1		1000	220	20			2		28						
32. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	1			10	5598	38				2	1	549	5	1				2
33. Eldora-Union				12	2058													
34. Grinnell	1		1		2375	13						102						
35. Ames	cw	1	28	151	12135	69				2		784						
36. Saylorville Reservoir	1		1	35	10121	85	3			4		2759	4	2	2	1		14
37. Des Moines	1	1	1	114	9981	221	6			5	3	770		2	2		1	6
38. Neal Smith NWR					1904	7						100						
39. SE Webster County			1		3100	110						340						1
40. Boone County					422	29						63						
41. Jamaica	33	1	54	27	10661	46				1	2	430			1			5
42. Dallas County					985			1										
43. Carroll County				2	520					1		200						
44. Sac County					565	15												
45. Ida County					162							27						
Subtotals	38	3	87	360	67165	886	30	3	0	25	6	8038	9	5	7	5	3	28
SOUTHERN THIRD																		
46. Red Rock Reservoir				16	6945	94	1			4		3563	3	4			1	5
47. Rathbun Reservoir	6			29	10197							10013			2			
48. Lamoni			3	15	3647							258		1				
49. NE Madison County	1				3534							10						
50. Union County	11	1	102	148	15055			1	1		2	1196			4		1	2
51. Taylor County				100	917							202						
52. Cass County					1877	120												
53. Shenandoah	63	2	472	27	1956	99				5		7500		2				3
Subtotals	81	3	677	235	44128	313	1	1	1	9	2	22742	3	11	2	1	1	10
TOTALS	29307	19	10269	3972	200524	1837	1222	11	11	157	13	48836	29	30	78	6440	47	539

Gr	Le		Co	Ho	Re	Co	Br	Ru	No	Gr	Ri	Wi	Ro	Eu	Mo	Am	Sa		Ri	He	D-c	Am
Sc	Sc	Bu	Co	Me	Me	Me	Me	Du	Bo	Pa	Ph	Tu	Pi	Co	Do	Co	Cr	Ki	Bi	Gu	Co	Wh
	7		12		54							67	180		13							
		3	43		30						28	38	171	11	33							
			35		30							30	244		122				13	1		1
	7	2	261		96						3	10	214		211							
	67	59	789		278	8	2						311	15	98		82		112	19		1
	12	1	84		31					2	2	1	639	1	225				42	3		
	31	9	1777	5	346	1	2						812		299		1	2	3898	1734		1
			309	6	51	2		3			6	20	126	44	172		5		213	50		
		2	230		51						8	42	79		224				119	6		
			87								1	121	41	5	117			2	60	1		
	2	35	41	1	18			1	6		2	7	314	10	196	1			150		1	2
296	551	791	1756	1	377	3		6					373	2	96	3			8000	48	1	41
296	677	902	5424	13	1362	14	5	15	2		50	336	3504	88	1806	4	88	4	12607	1862	2	46
			1		13						3	42	33	68	7							
			66	2	6						5	84	915	37	22							
	11		187		201						16	190	258	8	45	5					1	
			51		123							114	464	28	56				4			
0	11	0	305	2	343	0	0	0	0	0	24	430	1670	141	130	5	0	0	4	0	1	0
										2	61	60	51		32							
											8	113	276		4							
											16	22	302	20	62							
											3	56	57		6							
	1		3							23	15	137	248	5	56							
											20	7	86	13								
	1	7		21	6						6	12	117	9	6	14						1
											79		56	10	1							
											21	10	291	4	6							
											14	20	290	34	8							
1	8	0	24	6	0	0	0	0	0	25	243	437	1688	168	194	14	0	0	0	0	0	1
										2	45	12	85	5	94							
											53	141	33	4	10							
			3								6	1	856		21					7		
	1	2	13	3	65						4	10	166	26	110			1	33	12		
											3	8	22	8	3	3	1	2				1
	5	4	10		13						22	97	533		36						2	
											4	24	11	1								
					6						3	13	6		28							
	1		2							3	110	15	388	13	111							
	5		227	5	577	2					10	1	510	115	115		3		5	6		52
1	6	3	48	17	3		7					24	1210	19	231	4			69	64		9
					3						25		95	35	99				290	13		
											1		14	1								
											67	59	134	48	30							
	1		9								12	12	161	41	11	15						
		1									14	1	82	15	4							
			4								14		50	7	27							
											11	ow	1	6	9							
											88	11	219	22	4							
1	20	10	316	25	667	2	7	2	3		492	429	4576	366	943	22	4	3	397	102	2	62
	7	11	1	172	11	4874	1						18	62	97	128		2	5838	81	1	52
				1		520					3		47	22	9	96			624	102		
									15				12	111	40	51						
		2				2					9	38	62	14	5							
			54	4				21			1	6	56	18								
	4		3		7						5		75		2							
											4		19	4	17							
	1			3							1		13	36	2							
7	18	1	230	18	5403	1	0	36	0		23	121	420	218	301	0	0	2	6462	183	1	52
305	734	913	6299	64	7775	17	12	53	30		832	1753	11858	981	3374	45	92	9	19470	2147	6	161

Table 2b. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2018–2019

Location	Gr Bl He	Go Ea	No Ha	Sh Sh Ha	Co Ha	ac sp	Re Ba Ea	Sh Ha	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Lo Ba Ow	Sh Ea Ow	No Sw Ow	Be Ki	Re He Wo	
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																		
1. Yellow River Forest							116		11	5	3	7	2	3		1	5	8
2. SE Clayton County	1	4	5				136		31	6	12	16	15	3	2	3	9	3
3. Dubuque	3				2		66		26	3		4	3		1		6	2
4. Green Island	5	1	4	1	2		249		65	3	16	4	19			1	5	34
5. Clinton	20		1	2	2		77		37	1	13	7	8	1			3	34
6. Princeton	5		2	1	1		104		40	1	3	4	5				11	35
7. Davenport	33		1	5	8		84	4	57		3	14	32			1	12	40
8. Andalusia	3		2	1	6		123	5	67	8	11	20	28	2			9	35
9. Muscatine	3		2	1	2		69	1	50	4	13	21	23				7	47
10. W Mercer County	2			1	4		115		33		3	8	12	1		1	2	29
11. Burlington	12		5	2	4		103		62	5	3		3				3	91
12. Keokuk	21		4	2	4		329	2	56	1	2	1	1		1		6	14
Subtotals	108	5	26	16	35	0	1571	12	535	37	82	106	151	10	4	7	78	372
MISSOURI RIVER																		
13. Westfield			6	1	1		11		21	7	1	1	1				1	
14. Sioux City	1			1	1		11		93	10	2	3	5				1	1
15. De Soto NWR	2		11	1	2		99		135	1	1	5	5	2			1	29
16. Omaha	4		4	2	5		36		108	2		3	2				6	78
Subtotals	7	0	21	5	9	0	157	0	357	20	4	12	13	2	0	0	9	108
NORTHERN THIRD																		
17. NW Clayton County	1	1	10	1			95		45	10	14	20	11	2	3	1	5	1
18. Decorah			2	1	1		77		29	5	5	6	4				3	cw
19. Bremer County	1		5	3			43	2	35	3		2	3					13
20. Worth County			3	1	1		17		24	1		3	2					
21. Mason City	4		2	2	1		28		17	1		6	1				3	
22. Union Slough NWR	1						69		14	7					1			
23. Spirit Lake					2		3		3		3	2					1	
24. Humboldt County			1		1		33		6	2	1							
25. Cherokee			1	1	1		33		20	3		1						
26. Canton			1			1	22	1	25	15	1	7				2		
Subtotals	7	1	25	6	10	1	420	3	218	47	24	47	21	2	4	3	12	14
MIDDLE THIRD																		
27. Lost Nation	1		5				43		42	1	8	10	9	1			9	92
28. North Linn	1		2	1	1		27		17	3		1						2
29. Cedar Rapids	3	1			3		23		37		1	2	6				4	7
30. Iowa City			1		1		80		69	1		4	3				1	27
31. Amana	1		1			2	40		14	3	1	1	1				3	23
32. Cedar Falls-Waterloo				2	4		68	4	32	3		1	8				3	4
33. Eldora-Union			1				21		12	1		1				1	2	3
34. Grinnell					2		8		20	2		5			1			2
35. Ames	4		5	3	11	1	24		99	1	1	9	14	7			4	1
36. Saylorville Reservoir	1		8	4	8		45	2	70	3	7	35	14				3	6
37. Des Moines	9		2	4	9		78	2	68	1		5	5				9	2
38. Neal Smith NWR			10	1	1		46		46		1	1	2		4			2
39. SE Webster County			3		1		5		21	1							1	1
40. Boone County	1		11	2	9		31		64	10	3	13	14				1	33
41. Jamaica	4		5		4		10		38	1	2	1	2				3	6
42. Dallas County			2	1			16		21				4					2
43. Carroll County							4	1	15		2	2	1	2			2	
44. Sac County			cw		1		17		18	2		1	1					1
45. Ida County	1				3		7		22	3			1	1	1	1	1	
Subtotals	26	1	56	18	58	3	593	9	725	36	26	92	85	11	6	2	46	214
SOUTHERN THIRD																		
46. Red Rock Reservoir	4		4	1	2		158		41	2	1	9	5				6	5
47. Rathbun Reservoir	4		1	2			75		23	1		1	3				3	8
48. Lamoni			6	1	2		55	5	59	9			4				1	10
49. NE Madison County	1		10		1	1	23		21	5							1	1
50. Union County			3				10	1	38	5	1	2	3	7	6	1		1
51. Taylor County			4				35		51	2			1					3
52. Cass County					1		24		26	1		2						2
53. Shenandoah	4		3	1	3		4		35		2	3	2	1			3	
Subtotals	13	0	31	5	9	1	384	6	294	25	4	17	18	8	6	1	14	30
TOTALS	161	7	159	50	121	5	3125	30	2129	165	140	274	288	33	20	13	159	738



Re	Ye	Be	Do	Ha	No	Pi	Am	Me	Pe	No	Bl	Am	Ho	Bl	Tu	Re	Wh	Br	Wi
Wo	Sa	Wo	Wo	Fl	Wo	Ke			Fa	Sh	Ja	Cr	La	Ca	Ti	Nu	Br	Cr	Wr
66		55	12	2	8	8				1	112	125		108	14	12	52	8	
78	1	58	31	4	14	12	1				101	181	25	159	20	2	119	9	3
67		54	3	8	9	15					65	88		109	15	3	65	2	
97	1	91	35	81	12	24				1	194	204	7	109	24	6	92	21	10
93	1	80	16	23	3	14	1				152	117	46	236	31	6	108	22	1
64	2	66	19	16	7	34					197	21	1	100	9	5	62	21	
132	1	159	26	23	11	20			1		236	73	2	366	33	19	238	25	1
76	3	64	31	21	7	18					178	77	18	150	43	5	67	21	2
91	1	77	38	30	16	28			1		349	113	6	176	37	8	100	15	2
81		48	26	34	4	24	1			1	203	39	3	107	9	8	69	10	1
151	1	51	16	39	8	25	2	2			267	73	15	80	21	8	72	5	2
79	2	56	8	44	8	15	1				309	11391	18	128	31	18	72	12	1
1075	13	859	261	325	107	237	6	4	3	2363	12502	141	1828	287	100	1116	171	23	
16		22	4	1		4	1				21	20	1	10			21		
37		44	3	14		5	3			1	50	43	9	66		4	57	1	
96		78	19	44	5	12	1			3	164	73	16	98	9	14	91	4	1
58	1	95	19	12	6	14			1		104	82		94	5	5	134	8	1
207	1	239	45	71	11	35	5	1	4	339	218	26	268	14	23	303	13	2	
73	2	89	32	2	6	5					141	120	56	156	11	6	111	13	3
46	1	64	19	2	7	5				3	117	186	3	144	8	26	75	6	1
26		31	9		1	12	2			3	131	202		78			28		
11		15	4	1		1					43	92		25		1	16		
35		76	26	1	1	1				cw	144	40000		198		10	79	3	
2		7	7					1		2	19	142	15	88			3	1	
4		10	6					1		1	9	35	21	33		2	9	1	
11		23	3	1		1					11	58	12	36		1	14	3	
7		4	6	1		4					33	207		7		1	3		
11		10	6	6		3	1			5	53	99	119	22			11	1	
226	3	329	118	14	15	32	5	0	14	701	41141	226	787	19	47	349	28	4	
82	1	76	18	22	2	14	1				218	84	12	38	4	14	69	26	
19		16	1		2	10					36	26		31	1		8	1	
111	2	108	15	12	4	5					104	261		244	41	7	111	11	1
76		85	12	10	4	26					145	107	2	137	38	5	78	5	
15		20	3	4	1	1					45	30		55		7	12	1	
66		101	37	8	4	18				1	94	8273		173		7	74	6	
23		25	7		3	2					28	38		19		1	34		
8		8	2			2					9	115		8			8		
148	1	185	57	6	1	9	2			1	206	7100	1	278		19	197	20	2
113	1	107	34	24	1	10	4			2	237	137	21	299	10	4	153	17	3
126	1	148	27	14	3	9	5				212	1101	6	255	12	10	158	8	2
46		36	7	8		7	2				102	60	2	40		1	34	2	
8		5	1								28	10	2	7		3	5		
135		187	71	12	5	3					240	98	81	229	25	8	127	1	
25		17	5	7		4	1				93	28	1	22			35	3	
25		43	2	9	3	8	1				81	32		48	3		42	3	
11		15	6			3	1			1	20	26	5	1		2	10		
16		8	6			1					11	29	96	29		3	14		
7		9	1	4			1				75	66	12	12			4	1	
1060	6	1199	312	140	33	132	18	0	5	1984	17621	241	1925	134	91	1173	105	8	
88	1	76	23	44	2	9	1			2	176	142	3	131	25	4	85	7	2
39		24	6	20		6					223	104	6	37	13	4	21		
45		27	11	45	1	17					302	257	15	43	17		36		1
26		29	1	14		5				1	44	114		38	4	1	25		
8		6	2	7		7					32	77	4	5		2	3		
17		11				9					53	125		6			6	1	
3		7	4	2		2					30	16	77	9			23	4	
12		9	2	8		1					33	22	6	3	5		17		1
238	1	189	49	147	3	56	1	0	3	893	857	111	272	64	11	216	12	4	
2806	24	2815	785	697	169	492	35	5	29	6280	72339	745	5080	518	272	3157	329	41	

Table 2c. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2018–2019

Location	Go										Eu										Am	
	Ca Wr	Cr Ki	Ea Bl	He Th	Am Ro	Gr Ca	No Mo	Eu St	Ce Wa	Ho Sp	Tr Sp	Ho Fi	Pu Fi	Pi Si	Am Go	La Lo	Sn Bu	Ea To	Tr Sp	Fi Sp		
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																						
1. Yellow River Forest	1				1			288	14	293		23	8	4	47				229			
2. SE Clayton County	13		32	1	2			379	14	506	13	41	8	34	12	3			534	6		
3. Dubuque	11	1	17		53			173	31	423	1	40	3	40	64			105				
4. Green Island	26	8	107	2	199	1	6	918	140	284	10	4	24	7	50	3			717			
5. Clinton	7	5	76	4	80			846	38	720	3	46	62	1	23	110	18	3	55			
6. Princeton	2		24	2	155			3671	3	1094	107	104	6	2	7				150			
7. Davenport	36	3	83	1	60			3043	31	1498	277	122	2	72	115	15			107			
8. Andalusia	11	3	48	2	11			1490	14	1288	305	78	48	273	106	2			228			
9. Muscatine	14	1	52	4	64			1722	18	540	277	44	21		69	12		1	139			
10. W Mercer County	7	5	11	13	41			1207	149	475	206	17	75	6	15	3		1	120			
11. Burlington	17	3	25	4	22		1	751	30	150	1061	50	5	35	30				190	3		
12. Keokuk	33	2	36		64			7133	29	272	347	12	9		23				84			
Subtotals	178	31	511	33	752	1	7	21621	511	7543	2607	581	271	474	561	148	18	6	2658	9		
MISSOURI RIVER																						
13. Westfield			4					203		115			1		6				21			
14. Sioux City			16		1			607	37	169		17	3	16	22				166			
15. De Soto NWR	8	3	34	1	44			1098	139	249		20	22		158	250			380			
16. Omaha	30		64		4			2040	2	251		32	6	8	121				105			
Subtotals	38	3	118	1	49	0	0	3948	178	784	0	69	32	24	307	250	0	0	672	0		
NORTHERN THIRD																						
17. NW Clayton County	2	6	1	6	3			796	35	278		18	18	39	18	15	2		969	2		
18. Decorah		1			14			437	13	229		44	26	19	71				296			
19. Bremer County					1	1		695	3	685		64	8	38	53	85			611			
20. Worth County								24	24	223		68		54	20	18			89			
21. Mason City			16	1	18			452	36	290		80	13	152	54	100			73			
22. Union Slough NWR								434		215			18		1	30	24		95			
23. Spirit Lake	1	1						3129	58	94		22	2	16	8				41			
24. Humboldt County								523		166		12			4				61			
25. Cherokee					3			335	150	198		5			58	27			28			
26. Canton		1						284	20	480		11	1	1	38				10			
Subtotals	3	9	17	7	39	1	0	7109	339	2858	0	324	86	319	325	275	26	0	2273	2		
MIDDLE THIRD																						
27. Lost Nation	1	1	28	6	17			848	57	1222	78	19	31		34	13			744			
28. North Linn					22			662		709		39	2		11	20			226			
29. Cedar Rapids	5	1	22	1	68	1		1184	28	871	115	162	3	92	56				123			
30. Iowa City	6		35	2	15			2155	41	283	3	38	15	14	55				58			
31. Amana							1	125		150	50	15			15				16			
32. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	2		5	1	2			714	291	395		58	2	53	98	125			281	1		
33. Eldora-Union					1			163	1	101	2				3				24			
34. Grinnell								440		13		12			16				6			
35. Ames	5	1	75	1	23	ow		3462	127	779		164	4	28	129	35			359			
36. Saylorville Reservoir	2	1	76		49			1283	298	309		40	12	2	71	21	1		408			
37. Des Moines	12		16		33			3786	125	415		62	1	28	177				169			
38. Neal Smith NWR			29		1			1542	17	513		20			18				301			
39. SE Webster County			4					242		131		11		15	100				11			
40. Boone County	1	4	3		1			542	32	823		33	28	29	93	6			355			
41. Jamaica			10		4			385	14	124		24			32				353			
42. Dallas County			39		17			384	159	180		9	9	8	13				125			
43. Carroll County	1							97	13	84		50	8	23	41	60			34			
44. Sac County			7					26		60		5		1	16		15		121			
45. Ida County								408	25	329		13	1		21				158			
Subtotals	35	8	349	11	253	1	1	18448	1228	7491	248	774	116	293	999	280	16	0	3872	1		
SOUTHERN THIRD																						
46. Red Rock Reservoir	19	1	45		20			559	98	301		29	13	7	69				272			
47. Rathbun Reservoir	2		39		4			189	205	106	1	3	14		32	40			217			
48. Lamoni	4		115		28	1		262	1161	258		3	7		27	3			818			
49. NE Madison County	2		16		2			1340		114		23			24				102			
50. Union County		2	8		26			887	40	34		14	1	4	11				136			
51. Taylor County			27		2			186		71					65				209			
52. Cass County			5		1			6		71		2	3						55			
53. Shenandoah	2		7					833	12	220		10			26				62			
Subtotals	29	3	262	0	83	0	1	4262	1516	1175	1	84	38	11	254	43	0	0	1871	0		
TOTALS	283	54	1257	52	1176	3	9	55388	3772	19851	2856	1832	543	1121	2446	996	60	6	11346	12		

Fo Sp	So Sp	Li Sp	Sw Sp	Wh Th Sp	Ha Sp	Wh Cr Sp	Da Ey Ju	We Me	me sp	Re Wi Bl	Br He Co	Ru Bl	Co Gr	No Ca	Ye Ru Wa
	3						324		1	18			1	63	
1	16		6	18		13	660			1	2			213	1
	22			22		2	445						1	138	
	13	1	69	51		5	788		2	46	19			283	21
	14		8	35			343			5			1	172	
	7		3	19		2	405			52			13	217	
4	73		12	90		3	527			848	289		39	273	2
	34	1	21	143		19	312			8	4			222	3
1	17		4	31		1	367			28	2		1	340	3
1	15		2	40		1	617			77	73		3	263	16
1	45		18	131		1	508			155			20	142	4
	26		6	121		42	286			163			40	296	2
8	285		2 149	701	0	89	5582	0	3	1401	389	0	119	2622	52
							39			1			2	11	
	2			1	1	2	279	60		450		1		62	
	20	1	1	23	9	1	370		136	23		39		139	1
	36			15	11	1	278	3	47	226				132	3
0	58	1	1	39	21	4	966	63	183	700	0	40	2	344	4
1	14		6	10		1	840	1		7	9		2	156	
1	4			10			322							86	
	4			7			237			18				117	
				1			96				5			13	
1	cw			21	1		241						2	74	
				22			20			18				11	
5					3		37				6			3	
	1			2			45		1	83	5	19	42	31	
							137							2	
							111	12		3				14	
8	23	0	6	73	4	1	2086	13	1	129	25	19	46	507	0
	49	1	59	51			579			132	1		1	183	
				5			175				180			68	
1	17		1	122		2	252				3		1	301	
	6			27		1	166			115	1		4	156	
				3			115				10			70	
	7		1	44			322			2				175	
							61							17	
							85							13	
2	42		5	117	3	3	766	4	6	319	1	31	6	272	
	42		8	89	1	1	749	3	7	156	2		13	292	2
	9			102	3		701			68000	72	4	12000	283	10
	6			1		1	119	16	1	330				88	
							27			4	65			3	
1	11		3	23	2		1405			23	3	24	4	246	
	2		2	16		1	322			320	1	1	1	49	1
				12			143		3					38	
	4			3	4		113							31	
					3		154			120				18	
							124			1				24	
4	195	1	79	615	16	9	6378	23	17	69522	339	60	12030	2327	13
	8		2	52		1	253	7		257			1	162	1
	4			2		23	205							111	
	8	cw	1	182	5	7	1028		20	2				205	3
	1			5	1		240			405	6	2	15	51	
	2			14			144			2				54	5
	6				10	5	202	26		12		30		73	
							184	20		60				38	
	1			5	6		37		99	202		1		55	
0	30	0	3	260	22	36	2293	53	119	940	6	33	16	749	9
20	591	4	238	1688	63	139	17305	152	323	72692	759	152	12213	6549	78

Table 3. Species reported on three or fewer Christmas Bird Counts, 2018–2019

Species	Counts
Mute Swan	Des Moines (1)
swan sp.	Dubuque (12), Boone County (2)
Surf Scoter	Red Rock (1)
White-winged Scoter	Red Rock (1)
Long-tailed Duck	Clinton (1)
duck sp.	Omaha (18)
Ruffed Grouse	SE Clayton County (2)
Pied-billed Grebe	Cedar Rapids (1), Shenandoah (1)
Wilson's Snipe	Burlington (5), Ida County (1)
Spotted Sandpiper	Princeton (1)
Franklin's Gull	Des Moines (1)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Davenport (1)
gull sp.	Green Island (3)
Common Loon	Burlington (1)
Great Egret	Clinton (1)
Turkey Vulture	Omaha (1)
buteo sp.	DeSoto NWR (7), Neal Smith NWR (1), Taylor County (6)
hawk sp.	Boone County (2)
woodpecker sp.	Yellow River Forest (2), Neal Smith NWR (2)
Prairie Falcon	Ames (cw)
falcon sp.	Ames (1)
Eastern Phoebe	Clinton (1)
Loggerhead Shrike	Union County (2), Taylor County (3)
shrike sp.	Taylor County (1)
House Wren	Red Rock (1)
Sedge Wren	Shenandoah (1)
Marsh Wren	DeSoto NWR (1)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Clinton (1), Muscatine (2), Red Rock (1)
Brown Thrasher	Davenport (1), Andalusia (1), Lost Nation (1)
Common Redpoll	Green Island (2), Andalusia (6), Ida County (1)
Chipping Sparrow	Mason City (3)
Savannah Sparrow	Burlington (1)
sparrow sp.	Yellow River Forest (1), DeSoto NWR (30), Neal Smith NWR (11)
Eastern Meadowlark	Davenport (1), Andalusia (1),
Great-tailed Grackle	Omaha (1), Des Moines (16)
blackbird sp.	Neal Smith NWR (30)
Orange-crowned Warbler	Saylorville (1)
Common Yellowthroat	Muscatine (1), Saylorville (1)
Western Tanager	Mason City (1)
Dickcissel	Bremer County (1)

## Field Reports—Winter 2018–2019

*Francis L. Moore*



### WEATHER

A majority of December days had statewide average temperatures warmer than normal for this time of year. A long stretch of unseasonable warmth lasted from 10–27 December with the average statewide temperature eight degrees above average. The statewide average high was 49°F, 18°F above the 30-year climatological average. Much of the southern third of Iowa had highs above 50°F, supported by southerly winds and clear skies. The longest stretch of below average temperatures occurred from the 3rd through the 9th, with highs generally in the 20s. December ended with more variable temperature behavior. December 30th was warmer than average with highs in the upper 30s to lower 40s. Daytime high temperatures fell across western Iowa as a cold front moved through the state on New Year's Eve. The first few days of December were unseasonably wet as a strong, slow-moving low pressure system over Kansas and Missouri brought showers across the state; locally heavy rainfall was reported in southwestern Iowa. Rain was the dominant precipitation type, but as the low moved east, light snow showers formed on the backside of the low. Precipitation totals through 7:00 a.m. on 4 December were above 1.00 inches for over 40 stations with 1.61 inches reported in Clive. Little Sioux also reported 8.6 inches of snow over this period. Just as the beginning of December was wetter than average, the end of the month saw another strong low pressure system move through Iowa on New Year's Eve, bringing a mixture of rain, freezing rain, sleet, and snow across the southeastern half of the state. Northeastern Iowa saw snow accumulations ranging from one to almost three inches. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from 0.74 inches at Spencer to 3.25 inches at Logan. The statewide average snowfall was 2.8 inches or 5.5 inches below normal. Snow totals for the month varied from 2.8 inches at Newton to 13.2 inches at Washta. This ranks as the 22nd warmest and ties with 2006 as the 12th wettest December among observation records.

The unseasonable warmth observed in December continued through the first half of the month with the first week of January experiencing the warmest conditions statewide. January was trending warmer than average for much of Iowa until a destabilization in the Polar Vortex led to an extreme cold outbreak



across much of the upper Midwest. The last three days of the month were bitterly cold statewide as a result of an Arctic air intrusion. Daytime highs, overnight lows, and wind chill values were the lowest observed since 1996. A new all-time record low of  $-30^{\circ}\text{F}$  was set in Cedar Rapids on the 30th. January was an active month in terms of winter systems moving through the state. A strong winter storm moved through the southern two-thirds of Iowa with snow totals ranging from 8 to 12 inches 12 and 13 January. One final storm system moved through Iowa on 27 January into the morning hours of the 28th. Most of the northeastern two-thirds of Iowa saw measurable snowfall, ranging from 2–4 inches in central and southeastern Iowa to near 10 inches in the northeast. This winter storm was the precursor to the Arctic air intrusion that brought dangerously cold air into the state beginning on 29 January. Monthly precipitation totals varied from only 0.10 inches at Sioux City to 3.67 inches at Burlington. The statewide average snowfall was 13.5 inches or 5.8 inches above normal. This ranks as the 45th wettest and ties 1891 as the 74th coldest January in 147 years of statewide observational records.

February began still under the influence of the arctic intrusion that blanketed Iowa in frigid, unseasonable coldness over the last few days of January. As the trough of extremely cold polar air moved east, a thermal ridge built into the state on the 2nd and 3rd, rebounding temperatures substantially. Many stations reported temperature swings of  $60^{\circ}\text{F}$  to  $80^{\circ}\text{F}$  from the extreme cold. The remaining days of February were below average. A substantial snowpack across much of the state also helped hold down temperatures. In terms of monthly temperature extremes, the warmest daytime high of  $59^{\circ}\text{F}$  was reported in Shenandoah on the 3rd. Pocahontas reported the coldest overnight low of  $-20^{\circ}\text{F}$  on the morning of 19 February. An active jet pattern brought multiple winter systems through the state during the month, the first of which moved through Iowa over 6–7 February. Northern Iowa received snowfall generally in the range of two to four inches. Another system moved through Iowa over the 9th and 10th, leaving a swath of four to six inches from southwestern Iowa northeast to Des Moines where 7.1 inches were observed. Shortly thereafter, a winter storm moved into Iowa from the southwest during the early morning hours of the 11th. Eastern Iowa received the brunt of the snowfall, ranging from six to eight inches. One of the most potent and widespread winter storms of the season moved through the state between the 16th and the 17th. The highest snowfall totals occurred in a narrow band between Red Oak northeast to Waterloo. Three-quarters of Iowa received snowfall above five inches. The final storm of February produced all forms of precipitation, from rain in southeastern Iowa to sleet, freezing rain, and snow moving northwest. A blizzard warning was issued for much of northwestern Iowa. Precipitation totals varied across the state from 4.83 inches at Muscatine to 1.32 inches in Sioux City.

Statewide average snowfall was 22.6 inches, making February the snowiest on record. Swea City reported 41.1 inches of snowfall while Bloomfield observed only 4.6 inches. Temperatures averaged 15.6°F or 8.4°F below normal while precipitation totaled 2.25 inches, 1.2 inches above normal. This ties 2001 as the 7th wettest and the 16th coolest February among 147 years of records.

Iowa temperatures for the three winter months of December, January, and February averaged 20.8°F or 1.3°F below normal while precipitation totaled 5.63 inches, 2.32 inches more than normal. This ranks as the 57th coldest and 3rd wettest winter among 147 years of records.

## GENERAL TRENDS

Most waterfowl numbers, both in reports and in highest numbers, were well below what was reported last year. Highest numbers of waterfowl reports were from December and late February with fewer found in January. Overall duck numbers were well below average during the period with most of the reports and higher numbers showing up in December and after 15 February. All three scoter species plus Long-tailed Duck made a showing during the period.

Most gallinaceous bird numbers were higher compared to last year with almost all showing above average and numbers increasing from last year. There were only four reports for Northern Bobwhite and 22 for Gray Partridge, indicating that Gray Partridge are starting to show higher numbers while Northern Bobwhite numbers are still on the low side. American White Pelicans were found in good numbers at Red Rock and Saylorville Reservoirs with lower numbers found at the locks and dams along the Mississippi River than last year. There was only one early winter report of Turkey Vulture this year. The number of reports for Bald Eagles was almost five times higher than last year, and eagles were found in good numbers along the Mississippi River and at the Army Corps of Engineer impoundments. Reports of *Accipiters* were fair this season with average numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks and somewhat higher numbers of Cooper's Hawks this winter. Northern Shrikes were found in good numbers throughout the state and nearly the same as last year.

Gull reports were widespread this year with most reports coming from December and early January. For northern owl species, Snowy Owls were found in below average numbers and there were half as many reports of Northern Saw-whet Owls. Long-eared Owl numbers were down slightly from last year and Short-eared Owls were more numerous in December and early January with almost twice as many reports. Merlins were widely reported but only a few Peregrine and Prairie falcons were noted.

Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings were more numerous in January and February with a few records from December, mostly in the northern and central parts of the state. There were good numbers of wintering sparrows throughout the period. Blackbirds made a good showing throughout

the period with a Yellow-headed Blackbird reported. Winter finch numbers this winter were down from last year with no reports of crossbills. Common Redpoll numbers were down also. There were three times as many reports of Pine Siskins, and over five times as many reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch this year, possibly indicating an invasion year for these species. Eurasian Tree Sparrows continue to expand their range with several found in Butler and Davis counties.

## UNUSUAL SPECIES

This seemed to be the season where rare and unusual species were almost non-existent with the records committee accepting two records of casual, accidental, or out of season species this winter: Varied Thrush and House Wren.

## COMMENT

I really appreciate everyone submitting reports and providing material for this report. It was good to see nice details on some of the rarer species come with the documentations that were submitted. Please continue to provide these details for both rare species and common species on unusual dates. Without this information some species cannot be included in the report and an important report might be left out of the records that should be included; only the person actually seeing the bird can provide such details. Details can be a short physical description of the bird that allows for separation from any similar species. For many species this can be one sentence. It doesn't take much to point out the relevant features to give some confidence that the bird was seen well and properly identified. Please take the time to make yourself aware of when some of our species are out of season and take short notes to make sure of the record.

Please keep entering your records on the Iowa Ornithologists' Union website so that they can continue to be added to the archives and be a part of our long-term database. There were only 550 reports for 141 species entered into the I.O.U. database this year by 40 observers at 137 locations in 49 counties (compared to 735 reports last year). We are also able to integrate eBird records into this report by downloading those records from the eBird database and merge it into the Iowa Ornithologists' Union records. There were almost 39,000 records from eBird this season that were merged into the regular I.O.U. records, which made the entire output very large and made the total records more inclusive.

## SPECIES DATA

ALL CAPS = Casual or Accidental. \* = documented, ph = photo. County names are in *italics*. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** = adult, **CBC** = Christmas bird count, **imm** = immature, **juv** = juvenile, **L** = lake, **L&D** = lock and dam, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **NW&FR** = national wildlife and fish refuge, **P** = park, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **R** = river, **SP** = state park, **WA** = Wildlife area.

**Snow Goose:** Highest numbers were 2500 on 15 Dec at Percival *Fremont* (SB, OD) and 5000 on 30 Dec at Percival (JJo, MPa). There was also a report of a Snow Goose x Canada Goose hybrid reported on 23 Dec *Wapello* (AB).

**Ross's Goose:** Only eight reports this year after 47 reports last year, with high counts of 40 on 4 Dec at Greenfield *Adair* (DAk), 2 on 1 Jan at John Deere Pond *Black Hawk* (AKO), and 2 on 15 Dec at Percival *Fremont* (SB, OD).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** There were a few records from Jan and Feb, with most records from Dec. Highest numbers were 130 on 19 Dec *Scott* (KJM), 175 on 21 Dec at *Louisa* (KJM), and 165 on 3 Jan at *Marion* (JG).

**Cackling Goose:** Highest numbers were 235 on 4 Dec at Green Valley SP *Union* (DAk), 260 on 12 Dec at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (DAk), and 200 on 2 Jan at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (JA).

**Canada Goose:** The largest concentrations were 10,300 on 14 Dec at Bays Branch WMA *Guthrie* (TD), 10,000 on 13 Feb *Woodbury* (GLV), and 5000 on 18 Feb at Sioux City *Woodbury* (LHAS).

**Mute Swan:** Two reports this winter: one ad 9–26 Dec at Dale Maffitt Res *Dallas & Polk* (RJT, WW, AB, JJ, JFe, TD, JG) and one ad 7–8 Jan at Clear Lake *Cerro Gordo* (JR, BL).

**Trumpeter Swan:** There were many reports from around the state this winter mostly in the east with a

few reports from the west and southwest. Highest counts were 92–262 on 13–27 Dec at Dale Maffitt Res *Dallas & Polk* (JG, AB, RLC, JJ, RJT), 85–250 on 5–13 Jan at Amana Lilly Pond *Iowa* (JM, LGR), and 50–90 on 5–20 Jan at Beemer's Pond *Hamilton* (EM, AS).

**Tundra Swan:** There were 27 reports with a high count of 20 on 18 Dec *Clayton* (KJM), 11 on 26 Dec at Dale Maffitt Res *Polk* (JG), and 16 on 4 Jan at Pool 10, Mississippi R *Clayton* (DAk).

**Wood Duck:** Only three reports this year after 21 reports last year: one on 9 Dec at Sycamore Access *Polk* (AB), one on 29 Dec at Forest City *Hancock* (BC), and one on 26 Jan at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (RH, CL).

**Blue-winged Teal:** None reported this season.

**Northern Shoveler:** Seven reports this year. Highest numbers reported: 3 on 13 Dec (MS, SS, SB) and 4 on 13 Jan, all at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (CA).

**Gadwall:** Reported throughout the period. There were 38 reports this year after 5 last year with highest numbers of 35 on 8 Dec at Montrose *Lee* (BW), 32 on 8 Dec at Trumpeter M *Lee* (CH), and 35 on 15 Dec at Jester P *Polk* (AB).

**American Wigeon:** There were 7 reports this winter after 39 last year with highs of 2 on 25 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (JR) and 2 on 3 Jan at L&D 14, Mississippi R *Scott* (SF).

**Mallard:** The highest num-

bers reported were 19,000 on 7 Dec at Waubonsie Access WA *Fremont* (RS), 2840 on 19 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), and 5000 on 15 Feb *Woodbury* (GLV).

**American Black Duck:** There were 17 reports this year after 54 last year with most coming from eastern and central Iowa and one from northwestern Iowa. High numbers were 5 on 18 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM) and 5 on 2 Jan at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TGS).

**Northern Pintail:** There were 16 reports for the period after 92 last year. High counts were 16 on 7 Dec at Waubonsie Access WA *Fremont* (RS), 20 on 25 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (JR), and 6 on 5 Jan at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DS).

**Green-winged Teal:** High counts by month were 20 on 25 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (JR), 6 on 3 Jan at Highway 92 *Marion* (JG), and 2 on 19 Feb at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO).

**Canvasback:** A total of 45 reports were submitted this year after 58 last year with high counts of 3500 on 8 Dec at Montrose *Lee* (BW), 380 on 14 Dec at Mississippi R *Jackson* (KJM), and 754 on 18 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM).

**Redhead:** High counts were 16 on 8 Dec at Montrose *Lee* (BW) and 6 on 8 Dec at Trumpeter Marsh *Lee* (CH).

**Ring-necked Duck:** Highest numbers were 50 on 8 Dec at Montrose *Lee* (BW), 18 on 8 Dec at Deep Lakes P *Muscatine* (HL), 20 on 24 Feb at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), and

40 on 16 Feb at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (JP).

**Greater Scaup:** There were 11 reports this season after 24 last year with high counts of 6 on 8 Dec at Montrose *Lee* (CH), 1–9 on 11–16 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG, KS, AB), and 5 on 28 Feb at Lindsay P *Scott* (SF).

**Lesser Scaup:** A total of 55 reports this winter after 96 last year. High counts: 61 on 18 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM), 20 on 4 Feb at LeClair *Scott* (AK), and 13 on 27 Feb at Davenport *Scott* (RSa).

**Surf Scoter:** All: one juv 8–15 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB, SJD, BWe, MP).

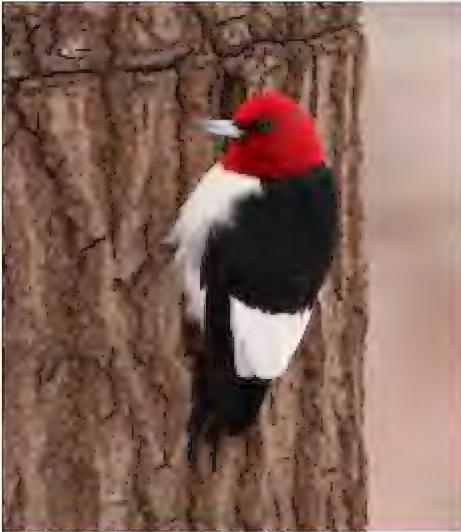
**White-winged Scoter:** All: one juv 8 Dec–6 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (BWe, JG, KS, MP, AB, SJD).

**Black Scoter:** All: one on 3 Dec at Keokuk *Lee* (JLF), one ad male 8 Dec at Duck Creek *Scott* (DH, BC), and one ad male 16–23 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB, SJD).

**Long-tailed Duck:** All: one juv male 4–5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DAk, JG, RLC, RJT), 1–3 on 18 Dec–4 Jan at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* (TM, EB, DS, EO), one female 14–15 Jan at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF, JLF), one on 21 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), and one ad male and one ad female 24 Jan at Pool 19, Mississippi R *Lee* (SJD).

**Bufflehead:** There were 28 reports this year after 45 last year with highs of 30 on 8 Dec at Montrose *Lee* (BW), 200 on 24 Jan at Pat & Jack Bush Overlook *Scott* (SF), and 27 on 15 Feb at Princeton *Scott* (HP).





*Red-headed Woodpecker, Lake Macbride, Johnson, 21 Jan 2019. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Pine Siskin, Mason City, Cerro Gordo, 14 Dec 2018. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*



*Western Tanager, Mason City, Cerro Gordo, 16 Dec 2018. Photograph by Jim Rose, Mason City, IA.*



*Cooper's Hawk, Iowa City, Johnson, 26 Jan 2019. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



*Red-headed Woodpecker, Amana, Iowa, 10 Jan 2019. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



*"Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco, Packwood, Jefferson, 20 Jan 2019. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*



*Rough-legged Hawk, Boone, 27 Feb 2019. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Western Meadowlark, Neal Smith NWR, Jasper, 12 Dec 2018. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*



*Red-necked Grebe, Brushy Creek RA, Webster, 8 Dec 2018. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



*Lapland Longspur, rural North Liberty, Johnson, 20 Jan 2019. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Brown Creeper, Iowa City, Johnson, 28 Feb 2019. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



*Red-tailed Hawk, Madrid, Boone, 11 Dec 2018. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*



*Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Lee, 24 Jan 2019. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



*Short-eared Owl, Neal Smith NWR, Jasper, 12 Dec 2018. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*





*Merlin, Brenton feedlot, Dallas, 31 Jan 2019. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



*Fox Sparrow, Ottosen, Humboldt, 12 Jan 2019. Photograph by Jacob Newton, Ottosen, IA.*



*Ring-necked Pheasant, Boone, 27 Feb 2019. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

**Common Goldeneye:** High counts were 710 on 4 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 800 on 8 Dec at Montrose *Lee* (BW), and 400 on 11 Jan at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM).

**Hooded Merganser:** High counts: 17 on 5 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), 23 on 8 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (SB, SS, MS), and 30 on 13 Dec at Dale Maffitt Res *Dallas* (JG).

**Common Merganser:** High counts: 5600 on 1 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 600 on 8 Dec at Montrose *Lee* (BW), and 8400 on 30 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG, AB).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** There were 12 reports this season after 22 last year. Highest numbers were 6 on 8 Dec at I-280 Bridge *Scott* (DH, BC) and 3 on 27 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG).

**Ruddy Duck:** There were 10 reports with high counts of 2–4 on 19–22 Dec at Johnston Gravel Pits *Polk* (AB, RJT, TD) and 2 on 16 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM).

**Northern Bobwhite:** Only four reports this winter compared to 12 last year with high counts of 1–3 on 3 Dec–14 Jan at Rippey *Greene* (CR), 14 on 18 Dec at Prescott *Adams* (DAK), and 7 on 3 Jan at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (RSa).

**Gray Partridge:** Twenty-two reports this year after nine reports last season with highs of 15 on 2 Dec near Nevada *Story* (EO), 2–8 on 5 Dec–26 Feb at Eastern Iowa Airport *Linn* (BC), and 8 on 23 Feb near Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (JK, MH).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** There were 169 reports this year after 75 last year with the following high counts: 120 on 26 Dec near Nevada *Story* (EO), 130 on 27 Jan on nw 2nd St *Polk* (AB), and 159 on 28 Feb *Boone* (DCH).

**Ruffed Grouse:** One report of 2 on 4 Jan at Wayman Road *Clayton* (DAK).

**Wild Turkey:** High: 135 on 15 Feb near Colfax *Jasper* (POR), 105 on 16 Feb *Madison* (DTh), and 62 on 18 Feb *Mitchell* (DMc, TMc).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Only five reports, four of them from the central and eastern part of the state and one from the west. Three of the reports came from December with one coming from late February.

**Red-necked Grebe:** One report of one juv 8 Dec at Brushy Creek RA *Webster* (SJD–ph).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Highest counts were 57 on 15 Dec at Brenton feed lot *Dallas* (AB), 43 on 23 Dec at Winthrop *Buchanan* (DAK), and 36 on 21 Feb at Dallas Center *Dallas* (CY).

**Mourning Dove:** High counts of 116 on 19 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), 146 on 26 Dec *Muscatine* (KJM), 150 on 1 Jan *Johnson* (FB), and 54 on 30 Jan *Warren* (JG).

**Virginia Rail:** One on 18 Dec at Montrose *Lee* (SJD–ph).

**American Coot:** There were 25 reports this season after 37 last year with highs of 5–30 on 9–15 Dec at Johnston Gravel Pits *Polk* (AB, AG), 8 on 14 Dec at Bays Branch WA *Guth-*



rie (TD), and 4 on 1 Jan at Lower Gar L *Dickinson* (JJu).

**Sandhill Crane:** There were 10 reports this winter with high counts of 82 on 18 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), 22–36 on 22–24 Dec at Sunrise Court *Allamakee* (BRM), 3 on 8 Jan near Brenton feed lot *Polk* (CY), and 3 on 11 Jan *Dallas* (DTh).

**Killdeer:** Only seven reports after 80 reports last year. All reports were of single birds.

**Wilson's Snipe:** Two reports: one on 23 Dec *Buchanan* (KJM) and one on 2 Feb at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (TM).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** One reported 23 Dec at Swan Slough, Camanche *Clinton* (\*JS).

**Franklin's Gull:** All: one continuing 1st year on 1–2 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), one on 3 Jan at Ottumwa P *Wapello* (JG), and one ad alternate 4 Jan at Sabula *Jackson* (JF).

**Ring-billed Gull:** High counts were 6770–7000 on 1 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 4700 on 30 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), and 3000 on 3 Jan at Johnston Gravel Pits *Polk* (JG).

**Herring Gull:** High counts: 580 on 2 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 280 on 7 Dec at Des Moines R *Polk* (AB), and 855 on 30 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB).

**Iceland Gull:** 30 reports this winter: Highest numbers: 3 (one ad, 2 juv) on 7 Dec at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JG), 3 (2 ad, one juv), 7 (6 ad, one 2nd cycle) on 12–13 Dec at Ottumwa *Wapello* (JG, JF), and 5 (2 ad, 3 juv) on 26 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (NW).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** This species was widely reported in gull flocks in central and eastern Iowa. Two (one ad, one 3rd cycle) on 7 Dec at Gray's L *Polk* (JG), 2 (one ad, one 2nd cycle) on 10 Dec at Des Moines R *Polk* (AB, RJT), one ad on 17 Dec at L&D 14, Mississippi R *Scott* (JF), 3 (2 ad, one 2nd cycle) on 22–26 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, BC, DH), 2 (one ad, one 3rd cycle) on 3 Jan at Ottumwa P *Wapello* (JG), and 1–2 on 10–16 Jan at L&D 14 *Scott* (JF).

**Glaucous Gull:** Two records this season: one 1st cycle 12–22 Dec between Center St Dam, Des Moines and Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, JG, RJT, CY, TD, DH, BC, NW) and one 2nd cycle 3 Jan at Hwy 92 Gravel Pits *Marion* (JG).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** There were only six reports: one 1–15 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (CL, JG, KVS), one 8 Dec at Davenport *Scott* (BC, DH), and one 1–18 Jan at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (RH, CL, AKO).

**American White Pelican:** There were 78 reports throughout the period after 45 last year, most below the dams at Saylorville Res *Polk* and Red Rock Res *Marion*. High counts were 210 on 15 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 214 on 16 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB).

**American Bittern:** One 19 Dec at entrance to Cordova *Marion* (ABr, GC).

**Great Blue Heron:** There were 60 reports submitted after 35 last year with high counts of 16 on 16 Dec at

Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM) and 15 on 16 Jan at Fort Madison *Lee* (JLF).

**Turkey Vulture:** Only one report this year: one on 22 Dec *Johnson* (AC).

**Golden Eagle:** There were 12 reports: 3 in Dec, 4 in Jan, and 5 in Feb, with 6 from the eastern part of the state and 6 from the central part of the state.

**Northern Harrier:** There were 146 reports this season after 105 last year with highs of 10 on 23 Dec at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (AB) and 10 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** A total of 61 reports, eight from western Iowa, 23 in central Iowa, and 30 from eastern Iowa.

**Cooper's Hawk:** A total of 184 reports this year after 122 last year, with 91 from the central and 88 from the eastern section of the state and 5 from the west. Most reports were of single individuals with several records of 2 to 4 along the Mississippi R.

**Northern Goshawk:** One report: one juv 8 Dec at Brushy Creek RA *Webster* (SJD).

**Bald Eagle:** There were 1461 reports after 298 last year. High counts on the Mississippi R included 245 on 10 Jan *Clinton & Scott* (KJM), 116 on 11 Jan *Muscatine & Scott* (KJM), and 93 on 15 Jan *Louisa* (KJM). High counts away from the Mississippi R were 78 on 10 Jan *Davis* (JGC, TC), 151 on 10 Jan *Davis* (TC), 314 on 27 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), and 291 on 16 Feb at Red Rock Res

*Marion* (AB).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** There were 52 reports after 32 last year with a high of 2 from six locations. Most reports were of one individual: 17 were from central, 31 from eastern, and four from western Iowa.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** There were 20 Harlan's/dark morph and 6 Krider's/light morph individuals reported this winter. High counts were 28 on 26 Dec *Muscatine* (KJM) and 24 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** It was another great winter for this species with 233 reports totaling 276 individuals during the season. High counts: 7 on 7 Dec near Sac City *Sac* (LB, EMB), 18 on 18 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), 6 on 1 Jan at near Spencer *Clay* (JJU), and 4 on 16 Feb near Marengo *Iowa* (DH, BC). There were 15 dark morph individuals reported.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 40 reports for this common nocturnal species, with highs of 15 on 14 Dec *Jackson* (KJM) and 9 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

**Great Horned Owl:** There were 130 reports and a total of 239 individuals of this common species after 84 reports last year. Highs were 15 on 23 Dec *Buchanan* (KJM) and 14 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

**Snowy Owl:** This season there were only five reports after 39 last year: one 3 Dec near Avoca *Pottawat-tamie* (HG), one 21 Dec–5 Jan near Calamus & Grand Mound *Clinton* (JS, FSt, SSt), one 1 Jan near Iowa Falls *Hardin* (KTM), one 16 Jan *Bue-na Vista* (DS), and one 18 Feb near

Luther *Boone* (\*CW).

**Barred Owl:** There were 153 reports of this common species during the period after 118 last year. Highs were 7 on 14 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 8 on 14 Dec at Green Island WA *Jackson* (KJM), and 7 on 26 Dec *Muscataine* (KJM).

**Long-eared Owl:** Fifteen reports this winter. Highest numbers: 16 on 15–17 Dec at Strautman Tree Farm *Story* (HZ, EO) and 6 on 5 Jan at Ringneck Ridge WA *Dubuque* (TM).

**Short-eared Owl:** A total of 48 reports from across the state. Highest numbers reported were: 4–6 on 5–23 Dec at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (AB, CHa, MHB), 5 on 1 Jan *Greene* (MW), and 4–6 on 1–11 Jan at Eastern Iowa Airport *Linn* (JF, JM, MR, DR, BC).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** All: one 14 Dec at Credit Island WA *Jackson* (KJM), one 20 Dec at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (PDBS, BRM), one 21 Dec *Union* (SJD), one 29 Dec–5 Jan at Moorehead Heritage P *Ida* (DSi), one 17 Dec–9 Feb at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP, SK, KCR, RLC), 3 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM), and one 14 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC, DTh).

**Belted Kingfisher:** A total of 136 reports of 166 individuals, with high counts of 7 on 19 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM) and 6 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** There were 287 reports this winter after 105 last year. Highs: 38 on 17 Dec *Clinton* (KJM) and 27 on 17 Dec at Syracuse WA *Clinton* (KJM).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** There were 1854 reports after 348 last year with highs of 40 on 26 Dec *Muscataine* (KJM) and 43 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** There were 22 reports from all areas of the state with high numbers of 2 found on 10 Dec *Jackson* (KJM) and 2 on 15 Dec *Linn* (KJM). All other reports were of one individual of this species.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** There were 915 reports statewide after 180 last year with highs of 17 on 14 Dec *Jackson* (KJM) and 12 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

**Northern Flicker:** A total of 319 reports were submitted after 141 last year with high counts of 19 on 14 Dec *Jackson* (KJM) and 14 on 26 Dec *Muscataine* (KJM).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** A total of 140 reports of 161 individuals after 94 reports last year, with all but one from the central and eastern sections of the state. Highs were 4 on 19 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM) and 4 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM). The single record from the western part of the state was one 13–25 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (MS, SS, SB, JR).

**American Kestrel:** There were 448 reports of a total of 534 individuals after 342 reports last year. High counts were 18 on 19 Dec *Clinton* (KJM) and 10 on 26 Dec *Muscataine* (KJM).

**Merlin:** A total of 53 were reported after 70 last year from 24 counties with a high of 2 on 15 Dec at Sioux City *Woodbury* (GLV). Of those that

reported races there were eight *F. c. columbarius* and five *F. c. richardsonii* reported this year.

**Peregrine Falcon:** All: 1–2 ad on 3 Dec–17 Feb at Mississippi R, Burlington *Des Moines* (BW, VR), one juv 25 Dec at Asbury *Dubuque* (KK), 1–2 ad 7–26 Dec at Muscatine *Muscatine* (KJM, DG), one ad 3–18 Dec at Des Moines *Polk* (RJT, CY), 1–2 ad 1 Jan–1 Feb at L&D 15 & I-80 Bridge *Scott* (RSa, SF, BC), and one ad 19 Jan at Keokuk *Lee* (MSw).

**Prairie Falcon:** All: one 18 Dec at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (SJD), one 1 Jan *Greene* (SJD), and one ad 17 Jan *Kossuth* (DG).

**Eastern Phoebe:** One 5 Jan at Fairfield *Jefferson* (TC).

**Northern Shrike:** There were 50 reports of 51 individuals this winter with most of them scattered over the northern two-thirds of the state except one 27 Jan along Hwy 2 *Van Buren* (KHa).

**Horned Lark:** There were 342 reports after 253 last year with highs of 450 on 29 Jan at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (DAk), 500 on 19 Feb at Madrid *Boone* (EO, WO), 850 on 21 Feb at Arcadia *Carroll* (DAk), and 2200 on 21 Feb on Manning *Carroll* (DAk).

**Tufted Titmouse:** There were 388 reports after 151 last year with highs of 11 on 15 Dec *Linn* (KJM) and 14 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** There were 476 reports of this species from throughout the state after 90 last year. The high number of reports from throughout the state indicate this

winter was an invasion year for this species. Highs: 13 on 17 Dec *Clinton* (KJM) and 24 on 4 Jan at Seed Savers Exchange *Winneshiek* (RH, CL).

**Brown Creeper:** There were 141 reports with 250 individuals included. The highest numbers were 14 on 14 Dec *Jackson* (KJM) and 16 on 18 Dec *Clinton* (KJM). The westernmost records were 1–3 on 13 Dec–3 Feb at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (RR), one 2 Feb at La Hacienda *Pottawattamie* (CWe), one 16 Feb at Spencer *Clay* (LAS), and one 26 Feb at Council Bluffs *Pottawattamie* (CWe).

**House Wren:** One was documented as an out of season record on 15 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (\*TH).

**Winter Wren:** There were 28 reports from throughout the period with a high count of 8 on 14 Dec *Jackson* (KJM).

**Carolina Wren:** There were 210 reports this season with a total of 303 individuals after 97 reports and 147 individuals last year. Most reports were of one or 2 individuals, mostly from the southern and eastern parts of the state, with high counts of 24 on 14 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 4 on 15 Dec at Burlington *Des Moines* (PL), 4 on 15 Dec at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM), and 6 on 5 Jan north of Burlington *Des Moines* (BW).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Fourteen reports this season after 29 last year, all of just 1–3 individuals. High counts were 3 on 14 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 3 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM), and 3 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (DAk).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** One report this year of one on 15 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD-ph).

**Eastern Bluebird:** There were 196 reports this year after 253 last year with high counts of 23 on 15 Dec at Waterworks Prairie P *Johnson* (JE), 28 on 17 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), 61 on 18 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), and 23 on 30 Dec at Sutherland O'Brien (JJu).

**Hermit Thrush:** Eighteen reports: highest 6 on 17 Dec *Clinton* (KJM) and 4 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

**American Robin:** Numbers this winter were not as high as last winter, with high counts of 90 on 14 Dec at Pleasant Creek Unit, Upper Mississippi R NW&FR *Jackson* (KJM), 56 on 19 Dec *Scott* (KJM), 94 on 22 Dec at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM), and 78 on 5 Feb at Mines of Spain *Dubuque* (TM).

**VARIED THRUSH:** One record this winter: one juv male 18–28 Feb at Waterloo *Black Hawk* (TS-ph, TLS, \*TM, BC, KCR, \*JD-ph, \*WV, SD).

**Gray Catbird:** Three reports: one 10–14 Dec *Jackson* (\*KJM), one 15 Dec *Linn* (\*KJM), and one 23 Dec at Buffalo Creek area *Buchanan* (DAk).

**Brown Thrasher:** Only one report: one on 17 Dec *Clinton* (KJM).

**Northern Mockingbird:** All: one 15 Dec at Mill Dam Rd *Des Moines* (JRu), one 26 Dec *Taylor* (CLa), one 8 Jan at Macksburg *Madison* (DAk), and one 26 Feb at Wiese Slough N *Muscatine* (HL).

**Bohemian Waxwing:** Only one report of one 2–3 Feb at Waterman Creek O'Brien (LAS, JJu).

**Cedar Waxwing:** High counts were 90 on 6 Dec at Jefferson County P *Jefferson* (TC), 74 on 6 Jan at Dale Maffitt Res *Polk* (RJT), 525 on 12 Jan at Peterson O'Brien (JJu), 85 on 16 Feb at Big Creek SP *Polk* (MHB), and 100+ on 20 Feb at Ames *Story* (WO).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** Widely reported along the Mississippi R where high counts included 100 on 14 Dec at Burlington *Des Moines* (PL) and 143 on 26 Dec *Muscatine* (KJM). Reports away from the Mississippi R include 95 on 15 Dec *Linn* (KJM) and 50 on 1 Jan at West Liberty *Johnson* (JM).

**House Finch:** There were 854 reports during the period after 311 last year. High counts were 36 on 9 Dec at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (BF), 34 on 16 Dec at Charma P *Black Hawk* (BF), 52 on 27 Jan at Roland *Story* (CF), and 100 on 27 Jan at Indianola *Warren* (HH).

**Purple Finch:** There were a total of 250 reports after 116 last year. High counts were 44 on 18 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), 40 on 1 Jan at Sutherland O'Brien (JJu), and 100 on 27 Jan at Indianola *Warren* (HH).

**Common Redpoll:** There were 23 reports this year after 57 reports last winter. Highest numbers were 13 on 23 Dec *Buchanan* (KJM), 8 on 9 Jan at Upper Iowa University campus *Fayette* (PDBS), and 2 on 10 Feb at Land of Two Waters WA *Worth* (CN).

**Pine Siskin:** There were 354 reports this season after 97 reports last year and nine the year before. High counts: 60 on 6 Dec at Denver *Bremer* (KCR), 61 on 20 Dec at Grimes *War-*



ren (JG), 190 on 31 Dec at Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (PH), and 80 on 28 Jan at Greene *Butler* (BB).

**American Goldfinch:** High counts: 100 on 27 Jan at Indianola *Warren* (HH), 75 on 17 Feb *Lucas* (LBU), and 54 on 24 Feb *Madison* (SBA).

**Lapland Longspur:** There were 131 reports with high counts of 350 on 14 Jan near Creston *Union* (DAK), 250 on 21 Feb at Arcadia *Carroll* (DAK), and 600 on 21 Feb near Manning *Carroll* (DAK).

**Snow Bunting:** There were 61 reports this winter after 20 last winter. The largest numbers were 80 on 21 Feb at Manning *Carroll* (DAK) and 200 on 23 Feb *Sioux* (KVZ).

**Spotted Towhee:** Three reports: one on 25 Jan at Ames *Story* (DAK, good details) and one on 2 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, JB-ph).

**Eastern Towhee:** 26 reports for five records: one 3 Dec at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (JBo), one 10 Dec *Cedar* (AHS), 1-2 on 28 Dec-16 Feb at Wapsi River Environmental Center *Clinton* (BBa), one 30 Dec *Polk* (GEH), and one 13 Jan-26 Feb at Jefferson County P *Jefferson* (TC).

**American Tree Sparrow:** High counts: 202 on 15 Dec at Bremer (CL, RH), 132 on 17 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), 318 on 3 Jan at *Clayton* (KJM), and 315 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (DAK).

**Chipping Sparrow:** Two reports: one 29 Dec at Otley *Marion* (AB, good details) and one 27 Jan at Polk City *Polk* (AB-ph).

**Field Sparrow:** Thirteen reports this season after one last year: All:

1-4 on 9-18 Dec near Burlington *Des Moines* (BW-ph), one 22 Dec near Rotary Reserve *Black Hawk* (DE, good details), one 3 Jan near Elkader *Clayton* (\*JMo), 1-2 on 3-4 Jan near Elkport *Clayton* (DAK, good details), one 4 Jan near Guttenburg *Clayton* (\*KJM), and one on 14 Jan at Greenfield *Adair* (DAK).

**Vesper Sparrow:** One report: one 28 Dec near Prescott *Adams* (DAK, good details).

**Savannah Sparrow:** Three reports this season: 2 on 14 Jan near Prescott *Adams* (DAK), one 27 Jan at nw 30th St *Polk* (CW), and one 23 Feb at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (CL).

**Fox Sparrow:** There were 26 reports for this species. High counts 2 on 16 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), 2 on 10 Feb at Fairmont Cemetery *Scott* (JM), and 2 on 27 Feb at Dubuque *Dubuque* (CK).

**Song Sparrow:** There were 289 reports after 118 last year, mostly from the eastern and central parts of the state. High counts were 14-20 on 9-16 Dec near Burlington *Des Moines* (BW), 35 on 16 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), and 11 on 21 Feb at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (BC).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Two reports of one 14 Dec at Credit Island WA *Jackson* (\*KJM) and one 17 Dec near Calamus *Clinton* (KJM).

**Swamp Sparrow:** There were 39 reports after 26 last year with a high count of 39 on 14 Dec *Jackson* (KJM).

**White-throated Sparrow:** There were 563 reports this winter after 132

last year. High counts were 32 on 16 Dec at Camp Dodge *Polk* (JG) and 47 on 18 Dec *Clinton* (KJM).

**Harris's Sparrow:** There were 46 reports after 27 last year with high counts of 5 on 14 Dec near Rippey *Greene* (CR) and 5 on 16–26 Jan at Ames *Story* (WO).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** There were 61 reports after 45 last year with high counts of 6 on 13 Dec at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (DG) and 5 on 14 Dec *Jackson* (KJM).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** There were 20 Oregon race individuals reported. High numbers reported were 321 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM) and 273 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** One ad male 8 Feb at Big Creek WA *Polk* (RLC, good details).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** There was only one report this winter with vocalizations after eight last year. One with call notes was heard 2 Feb at Arcadia *Carroll* (DAK).

**Western Meadowlark:** There were 8 reports this winter noting vocalizations: 1–4 on 12 Dec–18 Feb at Creston *Union* (DAK), 2 on 14 Jan at Prescott *Adams* (DAK), 2–4 on 21 Feb at Arcadia *Carroll* (DAK), 9 on 21 Feb at Salix *Woodbury* (POR), and 2 on 22 Feb at Sergeant Bluff *Woodbury* (POR).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** High counts were 70,000 on 22 Dec at Water Works P *Polk* (LGR), 500 on 1 Jan at Iowa City *Johnson* (MHB), and 700 on 5 Jan *Johnson* (CKE).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** High count: 48 on 1 Jan at West Des Moines

*Polk* (RJT).

**Rusty Blackbird:** There were a total of seven reports of 25 individuals from five counties. High counts: 8 on 3 Dec *Pottawattamie* (KH), 6 on 22 Jan at Coon Rapids *Greene* (MW), and 5 on 2 Jan at Water Works P *Polk* (JG).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Two reports this season: one 24 Dec at Huxley *Story* (VD) and 2 on 15 Feb at Knoxville *Marion* (JBe).

**Common Grackle:** There were 24 reports after 57 last year with a high of 10,000 on 22 Dec at Water Works P *Polk* (LGR).

**Great-tailed Grackle:** Nine reports after two last year: All: 85 on 7 Dec at Waubonsie Access *Fremont* (RS), 6–64 on 19 Dec–3 Jan at Water Works P *Polk* (JG, RJT, CY, LGR), and 10 on 4 Jan at Percival *Fremont* (OD, SB).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** One report of one 16 Dec at Camp Dodge *Polk* (JG-ph).

**Common Yellowthroat:** One report of one 1st-year male with vocalization on 16 Dec at Brenton Slough *Dallas* (JB).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** There were 15 reports this season after 51 last year with high counts of 6 on 10 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 14 on 14 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), and 9–10 on 18–22 Dec at Sycamore Access *Polk* (TD, RJT); all other reports were of single individuals from the central and eastern parts of the state.

**Dickcissel:** One 15 Dec *Bremer* (RH, \*CL-ph).

## CONTRIBUTORS

Danny Akers	DAK	Ames	Riley Henry	RH	Waterloo
Jonah Alderson	JA	eBird Observer	Paul Hertzfel	PH	Mason City
Chris Alred	CA	eBird Observer	Holli Hesslink	HH	eBird Observer
Sharon Bauer	SBa	Winterset	Dean Hester	DH	North English
Becky Baugh	BBa	eBird Observer	Gary Hoard	GEH	Madrid
Jan Behrens	JBe	eBird Observer	Mary Hodak	MH	Mason City
John Bissell	JB	Grimes	Jay Johnson	JJ	eBird Observer
Jessica Bolser	JBo	Wapello	Thomas Johnson	TLJ	Centerville
Fawn Bowdin	FB	Riverside	Joel Jorgensen	JJo	eBird Observer
Aaron Brees	AB	Polk City	Joe Jungers	JJu	Hospers
Stephen Brinner	SB	eBird Observer	Albert Kayser	AK	eBird Observer
Lee Brogie	LB	eBird Observer	Kari Keene	KK	eBird Observer
Ed Brogie	EMB	eBird Observer	Carson Kephart	CKe	eBird Observer
Anne Brown	ABr	eBird Observer	Jeremy Klatt	JK	eBird Observer
Ethan Brown	EB	Savanna IL	Craig Kruse	CK	Dubuque
Mark Brown	MHB	North Liberty	Shellie Kvale	SK	eBird Observer
Loren Burkhalter	LBu	eBird Observer	Connor Langan	CL	Waterloo
Bruce Burroughs	BB	Greene	Corey Lange	CLa	Pawnee IL
Brandon Caswell	BC	Marion	Hannah Leabhart	HL	eBird Observer
Giacomo Catalina	GC	eBird Observer	Loess Hills Audubon		
J G Chapman	JGC	Fairfield	Society	LHAS	Sioux City
Adam Ciha	AC	Hills	Peter Lowther	PL	Chicago IL
Raymond Cummins	RLC	Ankeny	Betty Lucas	BL	Mason City
Therese Cummiskey	TC	Fairfield	Edwin Martin	EM	eBird Observer
Olivia DuRugna	OD	eBird Observer	James McCoy	JM	Iowa City
Valerie Davenport	VD	eBird Observer	Kelly McKay	KJM	Hampton IL
James Demastes	JD	Waterloo	David McQuade	DMc	eBird Observer
Stephen J. Dinsmore	SJD	Ames	Tammy McQuade	TMc	eBird Observer
Tom Dougherty	TD	Urbandale	Tony Moline	TM	Dubuque
Seth Dudley	SD	Iowa City	Jason Monson	JMo	Reynolds IL
David Eastman	DE	Cedar Falls	Francis Moore	FLM	Waterloo
Chris Edwards	CRE	Solon	Kevin Murphy	KTM	Ames
Judith Ellyson	JE	eBird Observer	Curt Nelson	CN	Mason City
Bery Engebretsen	BE	Urbandale	Wolfgang Oesterreich	WO	Ames
Justin Ferguson	JFe	Clive	Eric Ollie	EO	Ames
Curt Fisher	CF	eBird Observer	Alan & Karen Orr	AKO	Cedar Falls
James Forde	JF	Cedar Rapids	Jess Painter	JP	Abilene KS
Steven Freed	SF	Milan, IL	Mellisa Panella	MPa	eBird Observer
James Fuller	JLF	Iowa City	Heather Perry	HP	eBird Observer
Brian Fulton	BF	Dunkerton	Diane Porter	DCP	Fairfield
Holly Garrod	HG	eBird Observer	Mark Proescholdt	MP	Liscomb
Jay Gilliam	JG	Norwalk	Colleen Radebaugh	CR	Perry
Anette Goyne	AG	eBird Observer	Kris & Craig Rash	KCR	Denver
David Griffin	DG	Muscatine	Billy Reiter-Marolf	BRM	New Albin
Caleb Hansen	CHa	eBird Observer	Vollie Rifner	VR	eBird Observer
Kadynn Hatfield	KH	Silver City	Justin Rink	JR	eBird Observer
Tyler Harms	TH	Ames	Paul Roisen	POR	Sioux City
Douglas Harr	DCH	Ogden	Deb Rolfes	DR	Solon
Candace Havelly	CH	Waterloo	Mark Rolfes	MR	Solon
Kyle Hawley	KHa	eBird Observer	Linda Rudolph	LGR	Coralville

Rex Rundquist	RR	Sioux City	Susan Stonedahl	SSt	eBird Observer
John Rutenbeck	JRu	Longmont CO	Michael Sweet	MSw	eBird Observer
Ken Saunders	KS	Grinnell	Dennis Thompson	DTh	Johnston
Richard Sayles	RSa	Blue Grass	R J Thompson	RJT	Des Moines
Matthew Schenck	MS	eBird Observer	Kendall Van Zanten	KVZ	eBird Observer
Susan Schenck	SS	eBird Observer	Wendy VanDeWalle	WV	Brandon
Tom Schilke	TS	Waterloo	Karen Viste-Sparkman	KVS	Des Moines
Lee Schoenewe	LAS	Spencer	Gerald Von Ehwegen	GLV	Sioux City
David Shealer	DS	Dubuque	Noelle Wagner	NW	eBird Observer
Dana Siefer	DSi	Storm Lake	Cory Welsh	CWe	eBird Observer
Ross Silcock	RS	Tabor	Ben West	BWe	Ames
Paul Skrade	PDBS	Decorah	Matt Wetrich	MW	Jefferson
Anthony Sotelo	AHS	Atalissa	Warren Wicks	WW	Johnston
Andy Spellman	AS	eBird Observer	Bobby Wilcox	BW	eBird Observer
Jessica Steins	JS	eBird Observer	Clayton Will	CW	Madrid
Tom Stone	TLS	Waterloo	Charles Young	CY	eBird Observer
Tommy Stone	TGS	Waterloo	Hank Zaletel	HZ	Nevada
Forrest Stonedahl	FSt	eBird Observer			

336 Fairfield St, Waterloo, IA 50703-1628 (flmoore@forbin.net)

## Iowa Ornithologists' Union Budget Meeting

*19 March 2019*

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union budget meeting was held by teleconference. President Francis Moore called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. Attending were secretary Sharon Bauer; treasurer Mary Beth Hunt; and directors at large Diane Dentlinger, Kevin Murphy, Dennis Thompson, and Curt Nelson. Attending as guests were Doug Harr and Hank Zaletel. Ann Johnson joined the meeting late.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The 2019 fall meeting site has yet to be determined.

Vice president Pip Fisher was absent from the meeting so there was no update from the fall meeting at Ventura. Treasurer Mary Beth Hunt reported that Hy-Vee has not cashed the check from that meeting. Curt Nelson volunteered to follow up with Hy-Vee and report back to Francis or Mary Beth. Check amount was for \$2,905.47. Billy Reiter-Marolf has not been able to find anyone to help with completing the audit. Mary Beth

will bring the books to the spring meeting.

It was reported by Francis Moore that Lee Schoenewe was approved by online voting as a member of the records committee.

Francis Moore presented a list of funding requests for the 2019 budget. He explained that these are basically the same as last year. The list is as follows: Records Committee \$125.00, Publications Committee \$11,370.00, Library/Historical Com-

mittee \$25.00, Membership Committee \$300.00, Membership Coordinator \$400.00, and Projects Committee \$5,000.00.

Francis Moore is in contact with Shane Patterson who is working on the Breeding Bird Atlas. Shane is writing the final sections and Bruce Ehresman is working on editing. There is no firm date for the completion, but he reports it will be done by the end of 2019. Shane Patterson will let us know when he needs funds to complete the project.

### NEW BUSINESS

Copies of the I.O.U. financial balance sheets for 2018 were provided. Revenues are budgeted for \$14,000.00 from dues, an additional \$1,000.00 in donations and interest income at \$350.00, for a total of \$15,300.00. *Iowa Bird Life* publication is an unknown expense at this

time with many back issues to print. There is \$14,689.21 from the Publications Enhancement Fund. Ann Johnson thought this would be sufficient to cover the cost of the five back issues. With the additional expense of the Breeding Bird Atlas, expenses are \$28,595.00.

There was some discussion and the budget was set for \$13,245.00

Mary Beth Hunt made a motion to accept the budget. Second by Curt Nelson and the motion carried.

There being no further business, Mary Beth Hunt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dennis Thompson seconded and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

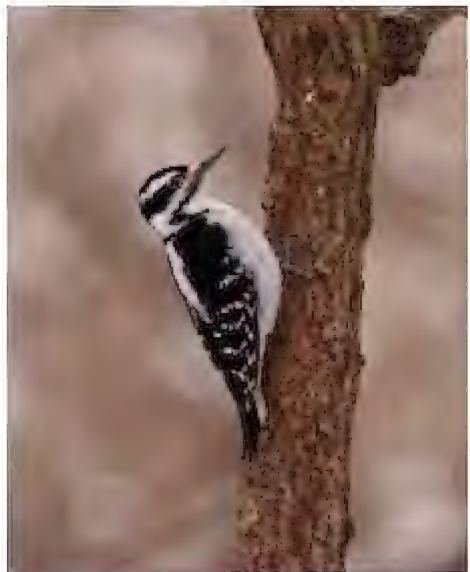
Sharon Bauer  
Secretary, Iowa Ornithologists' Union



*Northern Shrike, Ames, Story, 28 Jan 2019. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



*Short-eared Owl, Neal Smith NWR, Jasper, 12 Dec 2018. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*



*Hairy Woodpecker, Lake Macbride, Johnson, 21 Jan 2019. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



# Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring 2019 Business Meeting

4 May 2019

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (I.O.U.) business meeting was held at Roberts Memorial Center in Keosauqua, Iowa. President Francis Moore called the meeting to order at 4:21 p.m. Attending were vice president Pip Fisher; secretary Sharon Bauer; directors at large Dennis Thompson, Diane Dentlinger, Eric Ollie, and Kevin Murphy; and members of the organization.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes from the 4 March 2019 budget meeting have been published on the I.O.U. website. Hank Zaletel moved to approve the minutes as published and Karen Disbrow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Francis Moore gave the treasurer's report as submitted to him by Treasurer Mary Beth Hunt. Our current checking and savings balance is \$99,742.73. Current income is \$7,658.58, and expenses \$4,868.77. We keep Mary Beth Hunt in our thoughts and prayers as she continues to battle cancer.

**Membership Coordinator's Report:** Cecille Thompson reported our current membership for 2019 at 379. There is a downward trend in membership numbers. In 2018 we had 397 members. To date this year we have 24 new members.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Publications Committee:** Ann Johnson reported that the publications committee has been working on a very aggressive schedule to catch up on publications of *Iowa Bird Life*. Karen Viste-Sparkman has finished

2017 issues and the committee is compiling content for 2018. Thank you to the committee members and especially Karen Viste-Sparkman for their diligent and ongoing perseverance getting these issues to print. Brandon Caswell will be replacing Paul Hertzell as fall field reports editor. The committee is actively seeking a replacement for Tyler Harms who is stepping down as spring field reports editor. Please submit any content to include in future issues: articles, photos, or book reviews to the committee.

**Records Committee:** Paul Hertzell submitted a compilation of 2017 records. Thirty-seven of a total of 44 reports were accepted. A Whooping Crane is an exciting report for 2018. Currently only 2 reports have been reviewed for 2019. Lee Schoenewe has replaced Ann Johnson on the committee.

**Membership Committee:** The committee is currently looking for members and discussing ideas to retain and attract members. Doug Harr reports most of merchandise in stock has been sold. They will be selling yellow books and Iowa checklists; all

other merchandise can be purchased online. I.O.U. board displays are available to be used at any upcoming event. Contact them if you are interested in helping promote the I.O.U. at your event.

**Projects Committee:** Dick Sayles reported that the committee has awarded \$4,499.00 to 10 projects this year. Three of the projects were fully funded, 7 partially funded. Francis Moore reported he has I.O.U. plaques to distribute and display at projects funded by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

**Library/Historical:** Hank Zaletel reports that Iowa State University Library is nearing the completion of digitizing the I.O.U. archives and is about to launch Avian Archives of Iowa Online (avIAAn). We are all invited to a reception on 16 May 2019 in Ames to celebrate this ornithological web portal for Iowa bird data.

**Events Committee:** No current reports.

**Communications Committee:** No current reports.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Pip Fisher reported that the fall 2018 I.O.U. meeting at Ventura/Clear Lake was a success with 94 attendees and 152 bird species reported. Final reports are published on the website. Sites are being considered for the fall I.O.U. meeting. Please contact Pip Fisher with any ideas for potential locations.

Francis Moore reports he is looking for a volunteer for the audit.

#### NEW BUSINESS

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union has been gifted with a portion of the estate of Marilyn Irey and will be receiving \$43,738.35.

Ann Johnson announced that Jim Dinsmore's wife Pat passed away in April of this year. There will be a memorial service on 21 May 2019 in Ames.

There is an opportunity to serve the I.O.U. by coordinating the silent auction that we have all enjoyed at our meetings. If no volunteers step up, this might be the last silent auction.

Paul Roisen presented a slate of officers to Francis Moore for board terms ending in 2021. The nominees are Dennis Thompson, president; Pip Fisher, vice president; Diane Dentlinger, Kevin Murphy, and Tom Dougherty, at large board members. Hank Zaletel moved to approve the slate of officers and the motion was seconded by Stuart Sparkman. Motion carried.

Many thanks to Francis Moore for his years of service as our president.

Cecille Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting and Kevin Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Bauer, secretary

# Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board of Directors Meeting

4 May 2019

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (I.O.U.) board of directors meeting was held at Roberts Memorial Center in Keosauqua, Iowa. President Francis Moore called the meeting to order at 12:22 p.m. Attending were vice president Pip Fisher; secretary Sharon Bauer; and directors at large Dennis Thompson, Diane Dentlinger, Eric Ollie, and Kevin Murphy. Guests attending were Cecille Thompson, Ann Johnson, and John Bissell. Mary Beth Hunt and Curt Nelson were absent.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes from the 4 March 2019 budget meeting have been published on the I.O.U. website. Diane Dentlinger moved to approve the minutes as published. Kevin Murphy seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Francis Moore gave the treasurer's report as submitted to him by Treasurer Mary Beth Hunt. Our current checking and savings balance is \$99,742.73. Current income is \$7,658.58, and expenses \$4,868.77. Membership and dues are down for the year.

**Membership Coordinator's Report:** Cecille Thompson reported our current membership for 2019 is 379. There is a downward trend in membership. In 2018 we had 397 members. To date we have 24 new members this year.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership Committee:** The committee is currently look-

ing for 2 new members and a new chairperson, and is discussing ideas to attract and retain members.

**Projects Committee:** The projects committee has awarded \$4,499.00 to 10 projects this year. Francis Moore reported he has I.O.U. plaques to distribute to past funded projects.

**Library/Historical Committee:** Hank Zaletel will report on completion of I.O.U. archives by Iowa State University.

**Events Committee:** Eric Ollie reports there are currently no events planned. The committee is looking for new members.

**Publications Committee:** The committee has been working diligently to catch up with *Iowa Bird Life* publications. The committee is looking for a replacement for Tyler Harms who is stepping down as spring field reports editor.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Francis Moore has been in

communication with Shane Patterson, who is working with Stephen J. Dinsmore to complete and publish the Breeding Bird Atlas II. There is no firm date for completion but he reports the work will be completed by the end of this year. They will contact us when they need funds to go to publication.

## NEW BUSINESS

Pip Fisher reported that the fall 2018 I.O.U. meeting at Ventura/Clear Lake was a success with 94 attendees and 152 bird species reported. Final reports are published on the website. There was much discussion of possible sites for our fall 2019 meeting.

Paul Roisen headed up the nominating committee and submitted to Francis Moore a slate of officers for terms ending in 2021. President Francis Moore will present the roster at the business meeting.

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union has been gifted with a portion of the estate of Marilyn Irey and will be receiving \$43,738.35.

Pip Fisher moved to adjourn the meeting and Dennis Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Bauer, secretary



*Lapland Longspurs, rural North Liberty, Johnson, 20 Jan 2019. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*American Tree Sparrow, Packwood, Jefferson, 19 January 2019. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*

## Book Review

Ross Silcock

*Peterson Reference Guide to Sparrows of North America* by Rick Wright. 2019. 448 pp., 358 color plates, New York, NY, ISBN 978-0-547-97316-6, \$35 (hard cover).



This book is a tour de force.

Not only is it a comprehensive summary of field identification, range, and taxonomy of species of the New World family Passerellidae, but the introductory paragraphs for each species, which describe the provenance of the English and Latin species names we know today, read like an historic novel that is a perfect vehicle for Wright to display his well-known erudition and could quite justifiably stand alone. That Wright's extensive research into often obscure places and sources may be penetrated and interpreted only by one with his classical literary background is clear in these historical accounts. I could cite several examples, but a couple suffice:

Nevertheless, the naming of Savannah Sparrow races remained a thriving exercise in the first half of the twentieth century, coming eventually to a total of 28 described races. The descriptive tradition reached what was presumably intended to be its acme in the revision carried out by James L. Peters and Ludlow Griscom in 1938. As an exercise in typological connoisseurship conducted by two pairs of keen and experienced eyes, the paper they produced is a monument to taxonomic methods that would soon be rendered obsolete by advances in genetics, evolutionary theory, and molecular biology.

And, in the Brewer's Sparrow account, one example among many Wright provides that illuminate the often-acrimonious competitiveness that existed among ornithologists racing to be first to name new taxa during the "sparrow wars" of the late 1870s quotes stunningly harsh comments by Elliott Coues, a prominent curmudgeon of his day:



Everybody knows Brewer made a fool of himself about the Sparrows for years, and the fact that he then died does not alter the fact of what he did when he was alive. Many other persons ... did the same, but Dr. Brewer's foolishness was more conspicuous because he pretended to be an ornithologist. The harm he did is incalculable, and his name deserves to be stigmatized.... Dying makes a great difference to the person chiefly concerned but has no retroactive effect upon the events of his life, and only sentimentalists allow it to influence their estimate of personal character.

But, enough of my admiration of Wright's prose, perhaps a personal bias of mine having known him for some 35+ years beginning when he was a young birder in Nebraska, a state whose birds I must admit I have gone after and written about more extensively than those of Iowa, my domicile. To mitigate (or to increase) my bias somewhat, however, I point out that Wright's extensive use of "eponymous", perhaps unavoidable in a work like this that deals with naming of species, got my attention. I still struggle to understand how this word fits properly into English syntax—even *Roget's Thesaurus* doesn't go there! Relevant to the context of eponymy are Wright's comments under Black-chinned Sparrow on page 313:

It is easy to determine who deserves the credit—or who should shoulder the blame—for the scientific names assigned to any of the world's 10,000 and more species of birds. The matter of just which ornithologist, explorer, or lighthouse keeper's cat actually "discovered" the bird can be far more difficult to settle. Not only are the precise historical circumstances of these first encounters often elusive, but credit is frequently obscured by the way in which those circumstances are recounted, with the participants' roles sometimes defined less by their actions than by their place in a scientific hierarchy.

*Sparrows of North America* begins with an introduction which consists of sections entitled "What is a Sparrow?", "Taxonomy and Classification", "A Note on English Names", "Historical Approaches to Sparrow Identification", "Ruling Out the Non-Sparrow", and "The Genera and Species of North American Sparrows".

Although all of these sections are well done, I found the last three especially innovative and useful. In "Historical Approaches ...", Wright traces the development of sparrow identification from its early, "centuries-long phase of ornithological prospecting" through the early attempts to illustrate North America's sparrows that were, however, "not intended to ease their identifi-

cation in the field”, to the first field guides, published as early as 1828, and, of course, Roger Tory Peterson’s famous *A Field Guide to the Birds* in 1934. Wright points out and strongly supports the more recent de-emphasis of arrow-driven field marks in favor of what many birders refer to as “giss” or “jizz”, the overall shape and proportions of the parts of the bird, an approach popularized by Kenn Kaufman in his 1990 *Advanced Birding*.

The section on “Ruling Out the Non-Sparrow” I found to be a pleasant and innovative surprise. We have all been fooled, at least for a short time, by female Red-winged Blackbirds, female Bobolinks, and juvenile Brown-headed Cowbirds and others; Wright deals with these and several others in an informative and enlightening manner.

“The Genera and Species of North American Sparrows” is a straight-forward, clearly-delineated and handy summary of the taxonomy Wright uses; it is a useful genus-by-genus outline of the taxa treated in the Species Accounts, not all of which currently are consistently recognized at the species level by various authorities. I applaud Wright’s use of the terms “hybrid” and “intergrade”; although they are often used interchangeably, they have different meanings that are relevant to discussions of pairs of taxa that meet and interbreed in “hybrid zones”, this latter a term that in my opinion is also too loosely bandied about.

There are 76 species accounts in this 434-page book, but fear not, there are a couple of reasons for this surprisingly large number. First, Wright’s definition of “North America” extending south to the “volcanic belt that crosses Mexico from Jalisco in the west to Veracruz in the east”, but not including Caribbean island species, results in inclusion of some 20 species that essentially occur only in Mexico. Second, Wright treats at the species level several taxa that are currently in taxonomic limbo; taking into account such taxa as those included in “umbrella” species like Savannah and Fox Sparrows and the Junco complex, the list of species drops to a more manageable 44 that we “Lower 48” birders are mostly familiar with. Wright includes in the book species included in the New World family Passerellidae as erected by Klicka et al. (2014) but excluding their “bush tanager” genus *Chlorospingus*. Also, admittedly not everyone’s favorite topic, Wright provides an interesting history of taxonomy in the Spotted Towhee account on page 168; in the same account, Wright adds a brief account of the bizarre and thankfully short-lived “quinary” system of taxonomy espoused by William Swainson.

Each species account consists of the introductory historical paragraphs alluded to above, as well as two further sections, “Field Identification”, and “Range and Geographic Variation”. Throughout, eschewing traditional citations such as “(Klicka et al. 2014)”, which are often clumsy and interfere with flow for the reader, Wright uses a note system, whereby the reader can refer to a lengthy appendix (51 pages!) entitled “Notes” that either elaborates on a par-

ticular comment in a given Species Account or indeed provides a traditional reference to the literature. I found this system easy to use and informative, as well as adding greatly to the readability of Wright's accounts.

As discussed above, "Field Identification" leans heavily on Kaufman's techniques of "the generic approach", perhaps more aptly referred to by Wright as the "genus approach", whereby sparrows can be readily identified by following the sequence first of shape, then habitat and habits, and finally plumage/field marks. Wright contends that "using this more thoughtful approach, most sparrows can be readily identifiable by careful observers". This technique is amply and expertly developed in Wright's carefully considered, detailed, up-to-date, and often lengthy "Field Identification" sections in the Species Accounts.

The section "Range and Geographic Variation" includes distribution described in detail down to the subspecies level. I applaud Wright's detailed consideration of subspecies, rarely done in a comprehensive manner since Peter Pyle's landmark two-volume *Identification Guide to North American Birds* published in 1997 and 2008. To my mind, understanding the nuances of distribution is difficult and often misleading without considering subspecies; in addition, subspecies help bridge the gap between distribution and taxonomy. Wright provides identification details for subspecies, but at the same time wisely issues many caveats pointing out that away from their core breeding ranges, subspecies identification in the field in most cases should not be attempted. This section includes useful comments about "confusion species", those that most resemble the subject species, and strongly emphasizes the "shape, habitat and habits, plumage/field marks" sequence for accurate field identification.

Overall, I highly recommend this book, even if only for its readable and entertaining historical account of North American sparrows. However, it is much more: it is a complete and wide-ranging compendium of the latest knowledge on distribution, identification, and taxonomy to the subspecies levels that will serve as an icon of its genre, an icon attainable only by the few writers able to delve into the eclectic combination of subject areas expounded upon by Wright.

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Klicka, J., F. K. Barker, K. J. Burns, S. M. Lanyon, I. J. Lovette, J. A. Chaves, and R. W. Bryson, Jr. 2014. A comprehensive multilocus assessment of sparrow (Aves: Passerellidae) relationships. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 77:177-182.

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## Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

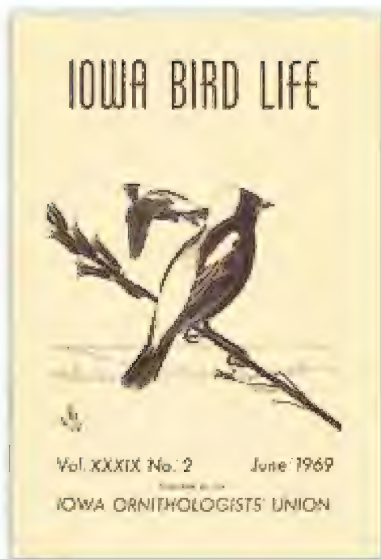
*James J. Dinsmore*

The lead article in the June 1969 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* is one by Gladys Black describing the migration of Turkey Vultures at Red Rock refuge, a new area with the reservoir just being completed. In fall 1968, she counted 419 Turkey Vultures from a vantage point on the south side of the lake.

The spring 1968 I.O.U. meeting was held at West Lake Okoboji and attracted 120 registrants. The Saturday afternoon program included talks on birds and pesticides, nesting habits of Loggerhead Shrikes, nesting birds of Great Slave Lake in Canada, nesting habits of Forster's and Black terns, and tundra birds of western Alaska. The latter program was given by Henry Kyllingstad who found the first nest of the Bristle-thighed Curlew. The evening lecture was a film and talk by Walter Breckenridge on Migration Mysteries. Organization business included raising dues and electing a full slate of officers including Robert Nicholson as President. The Sunday field trips found 149 bird species.

The field reports indicate a fairly busy spring season highlighted by Iowa's fifth Cattle Egret at Dunbar Slough and a Western Tanager at Storm Lake. Other good finds include a Red-necked Grebe at Little Wall Lake, a Burrowing Owl and three pairs of Say's Phoebes near Akron, Bohemian Waxwings at Jefferson, and lingering Evening Grosbeaks at several locations.

Other articles included recollections by Glenn Downing of growing up and hiking along Suttle Creek in Monona County and a memoriam of former I.O.U. President Albert Berkowitz. Short notes included one on trapping and banding a Townsend's Solitaire near Shenandoah, a Black-headed Grosbeak also near Shenandoah, a Varied Thrush in Storm Lake, Iowa's first Western Tanager, also in Storm Lake, and an adult Brown Creeper with a fledgling in Boone. Lots of activity for western Iowa! A final note describes the moving of the Sherman Swift Tower from National, Iowa to a campground near Harper's Ferry. In recent years, the tower has found a new home at Bickett-Rate Preserve in Cedar County.



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FRONT COVER PHOTO: Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Packwood, *Jefferson*, 19 January 2019. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Northern Cardinal, Lake Macbride, *Johnson*, 21 January 2019. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.

LAYOUT: Douglas Chapman, Sioux Falls, SD

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# **IOWA BIRD LIFE**

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## **IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**



**Summer 2019 • Volume 89 • Number 3**



## IOWA BIRD LIFE

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*The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.*

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# Birding Dallas County

*John Bissell*

These days, as a father of two boys, I find it rather difficult to travel very far from the Des Moines metro area in search of birds. Fortunately, as a resident of Grimes, Dallas County is just to the west of town, and there are many good birding locations within 10 minutes of home. This article will discuss some of my favorite birding locations that are both very accessible and can offer some fantastic birding.

**The Brenton Arboretum** is a relatively new arboretum that is about 3 miles southwest of Dallas Center off 260th Street. The habitat here consists of prairie, wetlands, and a park-like setting of various trees and shrubs, which includes a



sizeable section of conifers. Both Long-eared and Short-eared owls have been found in the conifers along the auto tour road as well as the cedars along the creek. Notable breeders at the Arboretum include Orchard Oriole, Dickcissel, Eastern Meadowlark, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow Warbler, and Northern Bobwhite. During migration, the wetland areas hold Sora, American Bittern, Nelson's Sparrow, and a variety of

waterfowl. The shrubby stream edges and the prairie can be outstanding in the fall for sparrows, including LeConte's and Harris's. Other notable species include Loggerhead and Northern shrike and Northern Mockingbird, all of which can be seen almost every year. Perhaps the most famous visitor to the Arboretum was a long-staying Hoary Redpoll that stuck around from 16 December 2006 to 19 February 2007.

**Green Acres Sod Farm** is southeast of Dallas Center. It is located one-quarter mile south of the intersection of S Avenue and 260th Street. This area is most reliable in the late summer when Buff-breasted Sandpipers can be found in August and early September. Spring can be good as well if it has been wet, with a variety of shorebirds being present

**250th Street Sod Farm** is located at the intersection of T Avenue and 250th Street just east of Dallas Center. While this sod farm is very similar to Green Acres, it is a somewhat more reliable birding hotspot during wet springs, especially when the creek floods. I have seen many interesting shorebirds here during spring including godwits, Willets, American Golden-Plover, and Black-

bellied Plover. White-faced Ibis and Snowy Egret have also been seen here in spring. Buff-breasted Sandpiper is reliable in the late summer, and this is probably the most reliable location to see Upland Sandpipers near Des Moines.

**Marsh Farm Wetland** is a new wetland west of Grimes that is located one-quarter mile west of the intersection of 230th Street and W Avenue. Please note this is private property, but the marsh can easily be viewed from the road. This is an excellent place for waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds, and is one of the first places in central Iowa in spring to attract Greater White-fronted and Snow geese. Pretty much every regular duck and goose has been seen here, including Cinnamon Teal. Other notable sightings include American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Whimbrel, Snowy Egret, White-faced Ibis, Eared Grebe, and Swainson's Hawk. This is a place that is generally most productive in spring.

**Brenton Feedlot** can be reached by taking Highway 44 west to Y Avenue, and then traveling north 2 miles to 220th Street. This is private property, but easily viewed from the road. It is most productive in the winter. The feedlot draws thousands of European Starlings and Rock Pigeons, which in turn attract a wide variety of raptors. Merlins are annual here, and a Prairie Falcon once spent several days here. This location also attracts wintering icterids including Rusty and Brewer's blackbirds. Following snow storms, Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings can be found as well.

**Brenton Sod Farm** is a brand new and very large sod farm located just north of the Brenton Feedlot along Y Avenue all the way up to 210th Street. So far Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, and Spotted Sandpiper have been seen here, but as the sod farm gets more established, I expect this area to become a good birding location similar to the 250th Street Sod Farm.

**Brenton Slough** is a pretty large slough, but it is private property, and I will just discuss the areas viewable from Xavier Avenue, which is just south of Granger. This is an excellent location to find a variety of birds, and is one of the most reliable spots in central Iowa to find nesting Prothonotary Warblers and Sandhill Cranes. It is also a well-known location to find nesting Hooded Mergansers and Wood Ducks. Notable summer visitors have included Common Gallinule, Least Bittern, and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. This is a nice little migrant trap in both the spring and fall, and a wide variety of warblers and sparrows have been seen here.

These are just a few of the many great birding locations in Dallas County. They are just far enough away from the metro to offer some relatively quiet and remote birding alternatives when places like Saylorville and Walnut Woods are too crowded. I hope to see you around one of these great locations soon.

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## Meet an Iowa Birder: Tom Johnson

*Anonymous*

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Thomas Norman Johnson was born in May 1947 in Aurelia, Iowa, the son of a postal worker and a legal clerk. As a youth he played baseball and helped his dad run a tree-cutting business. Birding was not among his activities as a youth, but he did have a strong interest in science. Tom was drafted into the army, and served as a medic from 1969 to 1971. After leaving the military, his interest in the natural sciences led him to Iowa State University, where he majored in biology and zoology and completed his teaching certification, later teaching junior high science in Rockwell City and Ottumwa. One spring, Tom decided to take an adult education class in birdwatching and as a result of the field trips, warblers entered his life.



As a part of his continuing education, Tom enrolled in summer science classes with friend and fellow teacher Wayne Pedersen. They were astounded by the geology and the avifauna of South Dakota's Black Hills. Tom had a notion to learn to play guitar, and this led to meeting Becky, who eventually became his wife. He remembers

picking her up one day at her rural home north of Fort Dodge. When he arrived at the property, he was met by a vibrant Indigo Bunting and a melodious Brown Thrasher. He soon noted that his future mother-in-law knew her birds quite well and thought that maybe her daughter had birder potential as well. Together, Tom and Becky scouted out warblers in the spring, spotting such beauties as Black-and-white and Cape May warblers and American Redstarts. They made night visits to various cemeteries seeking Eastern Screech-Owls and Great Horned and Barred owls. At their first IOU meeting in 1975, Gladys Black helped them identify Becky's first Scarlet Tanager. Birding together was becoming a favorite pastime.

Tom and Becky were married in 1975, and Tom began teaching science in Ottumwa schools. Soon they became friends with Judge and Darlene Ayres, experienced bird banders in Wapello County. They joined the Ottumwa Bird Club and began to help with banding at YMCA Camp and Floris Camp. During this time their son Breck also helped band Blue Jays and Black-capped Chickadees. A special memory was spotting an Ivory Gull on the Rathbun Lake Christmas Bird Count, a sighting which was finally accepted after many years.

Tom's career plans moved the couple to southern California in 1980, where he attended optometry school courtesy of the G. I. Bill. Now they had ocean, mountains, and deserts to explore, including such exciting birding areas

as Joshua Tree National Monument, Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, Orange County, San Bernardino, and Mt. Whitney. White-headed Woodpecker was one of many exciting new western birds, and along with new birds came new experiences, including a search for California Condor at Mt. Pinos. California was full of adventure and travels for them in those years. A trip to the Salton Sea was memorable, with Tom wanting to find shorebirds and gulls and six-months-pregnant Becky fighting off nausea from the many dead fish along the shoreline.

In 1984, the couple relocated to Centerville, Iowa, where they became involved with the Rathbun Lake Bird Club and Christmas Bird Counts. Tom first met some of his best friends in this local club: Ray Cummins, Mike Stephens, and Dan Tiemier. Tom undertook birding trips to Texas and Arizona with special friends, seeming to proudly display his Rathbun Lake Bird Club t-shirt wherever they went.

Tom and Becky's three children were inevitably exposed to birding as they grew up. Breck, who lives in Fort Dodge, does the Southeast Webster County Christmas Bird Count and also gives programs on bird feeding. When asked by a participant in a program how he became interested in birds, Breck said, "I was force fed." Daughter Tiffany has done many feeder counts. As a young child she was asked "What comes out at night?" Instead of the expected "Moon and stars", her answer was "Whip-poor-will" because that was the bird that would sit on the roof of their home and sing late in the evenings. Younger son Bryan lives in China and sends pictures of Chinese birds to his parents. As a youth, he helped his dad do Tom's Breeding Bird Survey routes, after rising at 5 in the morning. The birding bug truly affected the entire Johnson family.

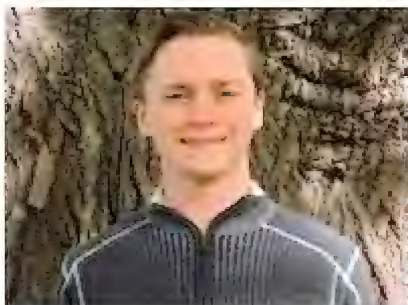
Not limiting his birder influence to the immediate family, Tom has involved many of his other relatives in Christmas Bird Counts and often shares sightings with them. Over the years he and Becky have enjoyed traveling all over the country, and they always seem to meet others who are interested in birds. Tom's favorite place to bird is Patagonia, Arizona. He loves visiting the Paton Center for Hummingbirds, where visitors can sit and watch the hummingbirds challenge their rivals for mates, territories, and food. The possibility of trogons and rattlesnakes nearby adds to the allure of this special place for nature lovers.

Tom has enjoyed the many years of experiencing birds with his wife and best friend, Becky. He remarks that birding is a great hobby, made even more special by all the birding friends you meet along your way. When asked his favorite bird, he replied, "The next one I see in my county!"

## Field Reports—Spring 2019

*Connor Langan*

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### WEATHER

Following a winter of record-setting snowfall, the snow persisted throughout the state during the first week of March thanks to sub-freezing temperatures at the beginning of the month. March 4th was a particularly cold day, and a spring low of  $-17^{\circ}\text{F}$  occurred in both Swea City and Estherville. Swea City received the highest single-day total of snowfall for the spring as well, as it was blanketed with 6.6 inches on 10 March. Following a four-day period of scattered snowfall across the state between 7 and 10 March, temperatures soon began to rise above freezing in many areas of the state. These rising temperatures began to melt the piles of snow and ice that remained from the winter. Flooding ensued in many areas of the state due to such a rapid influx of melt water. Thankfully, precipitation totals for the month of March were fairly normal, with most areas of the state averaging amounts within one inch of the expected totals.

April was the most normal month of this spring season. Temperatures throughout the state averaged out to be within one degree of the historical April standards. The warmest days of the month were the 21st and 22nd, as highs of  $86^{\circ}\text{F}$  were measured in several areas across Iowa. With the exception of north-central Iowa, the state experienced an April with precipitation amounts that were well below average. Southwestern Iowa had a particularly dry April. Rain unsurprisingly occurred a bit more often during the second half of the month, but not in amounts that are atypical to the days preceding May.

After a tame month of April, May was anything but. Temperatures in Chariton dropped to  $30^{\circ}\text{F}$  on 13 May for the lowest temperature value in May, while a high of  $93^{\circ}\text{F}$  was measured in Osceola and Perry just a few days later on the 17th. Precipitation totals for May doubled the typical monthly totals in most parts of the state. Centerville set a new record for precipitation amounts with 12.09 inches of rain, nearly triple its May average of 4.31 inches. Not surprisingly, the 4.18 inches of rain in Centerville on 29 May was also a best for a single day to this point in the year. The southern half of the state experienced a bit more rain compared to the north, but the entire state suffered the consequences of such a wet month of May as flooding became rampant.

### HABITAT, GENERAL TRENDS

The persistence of cold temperatures throughout March delayed waterfowl migration. The impact of the delayed thaw on geese and other early waterfowl migrants such as Northern Pintails was especially apparent, as their migration

began several weeks later than it had during previous years. Migration began to progress normally by the conclusion of March. Weather patterns were standard for April, and migration proceeded uninhibited.

The consensus amongst Iowa birders is that this spring was remarkably poor in terms of shorebird activity. Substantially large amounts of precipitation throughout May were responsible for flooding potential shorebird habitat. The unusual May weather was also not conducive to producing many records of early neotropical migrants. Based on the limited notable high counts from this spring, it seems as though large numbers of neotropical migrants bypassed the state on their migration route rather than descend to rest and refuel.

## UNUSUAL SPECIES

The accidental and casual species documented in the state this spring were: California Gull, Brown Pelican, Glossy Ibis, Black Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Fish Crow, Varied Thrush, Bullock's Oriole, Prairie Warbler, and Western Tanager. A total of 10 accidental and casual species is about average for the spring season.

A notable phenomenon this spring was the substantial amount of reports of Connecticut Warbler. A typical spring will have between 10 and 20 reports, but a tremendous 43 reports were documented this spring. Red-breasted Nuthatches received attention as they remained in the state far later this spring than is typical for the species. With nearly 30 reports being made after 15 May, this spring marked one of the largest late spring movements of Red-breasted Nuthatches in Iowa history.

## SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Accidental or Casual species, \* = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **AHHP** = Ada Hayden Heritage Park, **L** = lake, **L&D** = Lock and Dam, **M** = marsh, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NM** = national monument, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **ph** = photo, **R** = river, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **SF** = state forest, **Sl** = slough, **SP** = state park, **WA** = wildlife area.

**Snow Goose:** Numbers peaked a few weeks later than they have in previous years. Thousands poured into Cone M *Louisa* 12 Mar and continued throughout the week. The high count was 300,000 on 16 Mar along the Mississippi R *Lee* (SBi). A few birds lingered into May, with the last 24 May at Big Lake P *Pottawattamie* (CoW).

**Ross's Goose:** A tally of 200 birds was reported in *Polk* 16 Mar (AB). The last was 24 Apr at AHHP *Story* (WO).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** The last species of goose to arrive in the state, the first arrived 8 Mar in *Des Moines* and *Louisa* (PEL, Ryan McDonald). The high count came 15 Mar with 25,000 in *Pottawattamie*

(EK). The last was one at Lily Pond Iowa 31 May (BCC-ph).

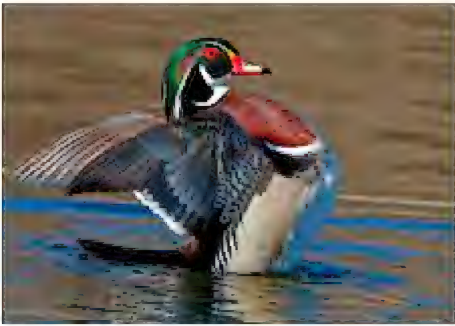
**Cackling Goose:** High counts were 200 in *Pottawattamie* 15 Mar (EK, Jake Mohlmann) and 153 in *Linn* 23 Mar (GPF). Last were 2 on 20 Apr in *Linn* (GPF).

**Canada Goose:** Reports of 3000 in *Des Moines* (PEL) and *Monona* (CA) were the highs.

**Mute Swan:** This invasive antagonist was observed in five counties. Single pairs were observed 6 Mar at Mississippi R L&D 14 *Scott* (JF) and 20 Mar at Cone Marsh *Louisa* (FB, SD).

**Trumpeter Swan:** The highest counts came from the southeastern portion of the state in Mar. A report of 250 along the Mississippi R *Lee* 16 Mar was by far the highest count (SBi).

**Tundra Swan:** A wintering bird at AHHP *Story* persisted until 16 Mar (WO, EEO, TMH). An impressive spring total of 40 was in *Allamakee* 30 Mar (BR).



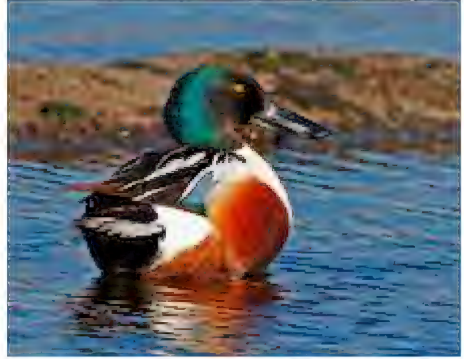
Wood Duck, Swan Lake State Park, Carroll, 8 April 2019. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

**Wood Duck:** First: 8 Mar at AHHP *Story* (WO). High count: 109 in *Polk* 31 Mar (PP).

**Blue-winged Teal:** First ob-

served 14 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (HL). Numbers peaked from mid- to late Apr, with a high of 450 at Lewis Bottoms *Linn* 15 Apr (BCC).

**Cinnamon Teal:** Two reports: a male at Dunbar Sl *Greene* 10 Apr (MTW), and a second at Maynard Reece WA *Kossuth* 18 Apr (DG-ph).



Northern Shoveler, Swan Lake State Park, Carroll, 18 April 2019. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

**Northern Shoveler:** A group of 25 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 11 Mar (KS) were first. Totals of 300 at Lewis Bottoms *Linn* 15 Apr (BCC) and 280 at AHHP *Story* 13 Apr (SSP) were the highs.

**Blue-winged Teal/Cinnamon Teal x Northern Shoveler:** A male observed 5 Apr near Moeckly Prairie *Polk* is considered to be the offspring of either a Blue-winged or Cinnamon teal and a Northern Shoveler (AB-ph).

**Gadwall:** A pair in *Lee* 9 Mar was the first report (JMc). Numbers peaked from early to mid-Apr, and 355 at Green Island WA *Jackson* 12 Apr was the high count (TM). The last two were 26 May in *Hamilton* (WO).

**American Wigeon:** First report was a pair at Credit Island P *Scott* 3 Mar (HL-ph). Green Island WA *Jack-*



*son* seemed to be a favorite stopover site, as the top four high counts were recorded there. The highest total of 60 was reported there 7 Apr (BW). Three separate reports 10 May were the last.

**Mallard:** Numbers began to gradually decrease as Apr progressed. The top five high counts were at Green Island WA *Jackson*, and the biggest concentration was 3500 on 22 Mar (BW).

**American Black Duck:** Counts of 6 were at Green Island WA *Jackson* 23 Mar, 6 Apr, and 12 Apr (BW, TM).

**Northern Pintail:** First: 5 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (SD). Numbers peaked in mid-Mar, and a total of 500 was reported 15 Mar in *Pottawattamie* (EK). Reports from *Hardin* in early May were noteworthy, with one at Legacy WA 6 May (DGE) and the other 10 May near Steamboat Rock (BLP). The last was 23 May at a sod farm in *Clay* (JDJ).

**Green-winged Teal:** Widely reported after the first on 10 Mar at AHHP *Story* (WO). Numbers peaked a month later with 1200 on 7 Apr at Green Island WA *Jackson* (BW). The last was 25 May at a sod farm in *Clay* (JDJ).

**Canvasback:** Peak numbers were in mid-Mar through early Apr. The most were 544 on 6 Apr at Trumbull L *Clay* (JDJ). The last was 26 May at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (BCC).

**Redhead:** Numbers were low, and a high count of only 100 was 6 Apr at Trumpeter M *Lee* (BD). Reported throughout May, with the last a pair at Colo Bogs WA *Story* 31 May (HZ).

**Ring-necked Duck:** Numbers got progressively higher throughout Mar. A high of 300 was at Green Island WA *Jackson* 6 Apr (TM) and also at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 13 Apr (TK). The last was 25 May at Dan Green Sl WA *Clay* (JDJ).

**Greater Scaup:** Reported in 17 counties. The first were 2 males below Red Rock dam *Marion* 9 Mar (CPL-ph, MKS). The high count was 15 on 14 Apr at West Okoboji L *Dickinson* (JDJ).

**Lesser Scaup:** On 14 Apr, counts of 870 and 760 were at Okoboji L and Spirit L *Dickinson* (JDJ). The last were 3 on 30 May at Hendrickson M *Story* (EEO).

**White-winged Scoter:** Four reports this spring: a first-year male 2–11 Mar in *Muscatine* along the Mississippi R (DG-ph, JMc-ph, m.ob.), a female 9 Mar in *Lee* along the Mississippi R (JMc-ph), one 16 Mar at L&D 11 *Dubuque* (TM-ph), and one 7–10 Apr at Coralville Res *Johnson* (JF).

**Long-tailed Duck:** Two reports 22–23 Mar of a pair at East Okoboji L *Dickinson* (DAB, LAS). A pair was observed at this same location the previous spring around the same time.

**Bufflehead:** The first was 5 Mar at Riverside P *Muscatine* (HL). Peak numbers were present from early to mid-Apr, with the high count of 150 on 6 Apr at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM). The last was a pair 18 May at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (BT).

**Common Goldeneye:** This common winter resident was found in its greatest numbers along the Mississippi R, with the high count of 400

birds 14 Mar at L&D 11 *Dubuque* (TM).

**Hooded Merganser:** Numbers peaked mid-Mar through early Apr, with a high count of 46 on 17 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB).

**Common Merganser:** The high counts were at Red Rock Res *Marion* with 300 on 17 Mar (AB) and 280 on 26 Mar (JG). The last was at Mines of Spain RA *Dubuque* 5 May (TM-ph).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** First: one on 4 Mar at Mississippi R L&D 15 *Scott* (SMF). Peaking in late Mar, the high count of 175 was at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* 23 Mar (TM).

**Ruddy Duck:** First: one on 21 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (LGR, LQ). Hendrickson M *Story* had the highest totals, with 400 on 7 Apr (DAK) and 200 on 12–13 Apr (EEO).

**Northern Bobwhite:** Reported in 19 counties, the northernmost report came from Preparation Canyon SP *Monona*, where 10 were observed 23 Apr (GLV). The high count was 12 in *Wayne* 27 May (KB).

**Gray Partridge:** Documented in 15 counties with the southernmost report from *Polk*, the high count was 7 Mar when 13 were observed in *Kossuth* (DG).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Good numbers were observed despite the cold winter. The high count of 62 was recorded 9 Mar in *Poweshiek* (CPL, MKS).

**Ruffed Grouse:** The lone record was at Fish Farm Mounds *Allamakee* 5 Apr (KaB).

**Greater Prairie-Chicken:** Every report came from Kellerton WA *Ringgold*. The highest count was 20

on 3 May (NP).

**Wild Turkey:** The high count was 40 on 6 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (RJH).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** First: 4 at Carter L *Pottawattamie* 11 Mar (Thomas Keown). Highs were 80 at AHHP *Story* 11 Apr (BMW) and 83 at Prairie Rose SP *Shelby* 13 Apr (TK).

**Horned Grebe:** The first was 22 Mar (BW) at Green Island WA *Jackson* and the last was there 11 May (Martha Corfman). The high count was 6 at AHHP *Story* 20 Apr (WO).

**Red-necked Grebe:** Only 3 reports: 2 at Big Wall L *Wright* 18 May (JJD), one at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS) 18–25 May, and 3 at Grovers L *Dickinson* 24 May (VL, Kathrynne Baumtrog).

**Eared Grebe:** Ten reports from seven counties. The first was a bird in alternate plumage at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* 7 Apr (RW). The high count of 3 was surprisingly at a pond along I-380 *Buchanan* 2 May (WV-ph). The last was 11 May at Legacy WA *Hardin* (TGS, TG-ph).

**Western Grebe:** Three reports: one at Gray's Lake P *Polk* 1 May (JB, m.ob.), 2 at Trumbull L *Clay* 18 to 25 May (LAS), and 3 at Trumbull L 29 May (JJD).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** The most reliable location in the state to see large numbers is at the Brenton Feedlot *Dallas*. The top five counts were here, with the high of 66 on 2 Mar (AB).

**White-winged Dove:** Two records: one at a residence in *Shelby* 27 Apr (Jess Painter-ph) and one at a residence in *Mills* 14 May (Jenni Giesting-ph).

**Mourning Dove:** The high count of 28 was 7 May at Brower Sl *Woodbury* (POR).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** First: 4 May at L Sugema *Van Buren* (Kris and Craig Rash, BLP). A high count of 5 was at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 26 May (KVS).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** The first was one on 9 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). This species was reported in 17 counties.

**Common Nighthawk:** This species swarmed the state after the initial 2 were in *Johnson* 6 May (BCC). An impressive spring tally of 50 was at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 19 May (KVS).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** All reports came from the Lucas Unit of Stephens SF *Lucas*. The high of 3 was 18 May (TMH, m.ob.).

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** On 29 Apr, the first was in *Jefferson* (DCP). Observed in seven counties, *Dubuque* was the northernmost county.

**Chimney Swift:** First: one at Gray's Lake P *Polk* 14 Apr (John Thomson). The high count was a modest 31 in *Clinton* 10 May (KJM).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Arriving early, the first was 23 Apr at a feeder in *Johnson* (JDM). A high count of 12 was reported 16 May at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (KJM).

**Yellow Rail:** The only record came from Legacy WA *Hardin* 5 May (TSS).

**Virginia Rail:** Reported in 21 counties, the first was 13 Apr at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (MTW, TG).

**Sora:** First reported 6 Apr at Trumbull L *Dickinson* (JDJ). Numbers peaked in early May when 15

were reported the 3rd at Otter Creek M *Tama* (KS).

**Common Gallinule:** Green Island WA *Jackson* claimed the high count, with 9 on both 6 and 11 May (EB, BW).

**American Coot:** Numbers quickly rose after mid-Mar, with highs of 3000 on 6 Apr at Green Island WA *Jackson* and 9 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (TM, SMF).

**Sandhill Crane:** The first report was a pair 1 Mar in *Iowa* (BCC). A total of 34 in *Allamakee* 22 Mar represented the high count (BR).

**WHOOPIING CRANE:** A couple of reports involving color-banded Wisconsin birds were submitted. Birds from the experimental Wisconsin population are noteworthy, but not accepted as wild birds by the IOU Records Committee. One was at Hayes L *Allamakee* 13–14 Apr (CHA, BR) and two on 7 Apr near Joice *Worth* (\*LJK).

**Black-necked Stilt:** Two reports: one at Coralville Res *Johnson* 30 Apr (JF, m.ob.), and one at Cardinal M *Winneshek* 2 May (LR-ph).

**American Avocet:** First: 6 on 16 Apr in *Cerro Gordo* (JR, m.ob.). An impressive total of 60 on 22 Apr at Dunbar Sl *Greene* was the high count (MTW). A courting pair was noted 25 May at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Only five reports. First: 11 May at Legacy WA *Hardin* (TGS), and the high was 3 on 31 May in *Bremer* (TGS).

**American Golden-Plover:** Reported in 14 counties, the first was 1 Apr in *Louisa* (BCC-ph). A count of 101 on 24 Apr at Dunbar Sl *Greene* was the highest (CW).

**Semipalmated Plover:** The first

was at Badger Creek RA *Madison* 18 Apr (JG). High count: 18 at Dunbar SI *Greene* 30 Apr (RC). One on 19 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* was the last (AB).

**Killdeer:** The first was 9 Mar in *Washington* (FB). Migration peaked in late Mar, and the high count was 51 on 19 Mar at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (CPL).

**Upland Sandpiper:** Observed in 14 counties, the first was 14 Apr in *Ringgold* (JLi). *Ringgold* also claimed the high count with 5 on 3 May at Kellerton WA (KB).

**Whimbrel:** One on 1 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* was the only report (TM-ph).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** The first and the high count were both made with the observation of 14 individuals at Dunbar SI *Greene* 17 Apr (MTW).

**Marbled Godwit:** Observations at Sandhill L *Woodbury* and Dunbar SI *Greene* 13 Apr were the first records (GLV, MTW). The high count came 17 Apr in *Black Hawk* when a flock of 10 graced Tommy Stone's yard in Waterloo with a flyover (TGS).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Observed in six counties during May, the first was 2 May at Jensen M *Madison* (JG-ph, SBi). The high count of 7 was 7 May at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* (TM-ph, EB). The last were 3 on 23 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (TJD-ph, RJT-ph).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** One on 20 Apr at Dunbar SI *Greene* was the first (DAk). The high count of 24 was 18 May in *Clay* (JDJ).

**Sanderling:** The first was 7 May at Legacy WA *Hardin* (TSS). Out

of the seven counties with reports, the high of 8 came 17 and 20 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). An observation in *Hancock* 25 May was the last (BCC).

**Dunlin:** First: one on 11 Apr at Dunbar SI *Greene* (MTW). Dunbar SI also claimed the high count of 20 on 30 Apr (VW). Two on 24 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* were the last (BCC).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** The first was 6 Apr in *Greene* (EEO, MTW). A high count of 11 was reported in *Clay* 18 May (JDJ). This species was reported in 11 counties this spring.

**Least Sandpiper:** There were far fewer reports this year compared to the previous several seasons. The first were 14 Apr with one at Hendrickson M *Marshall* and 30 at Dunbar SI *Greene* (ASp, VW). A report of 87 at Dunbar SI 11 May was the high count (RIA/PHA). The last was observed at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 24 May (BCC).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Found in 11 counties, the first one was 28 Apr at Dunbar SI *Greene* (AB-ph). The high count was 45 on 16 May at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (POR).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** First observed 31 Mar in two locations: one at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (RJT) and 9 at Cone M *Louisa* (SN). Reports of 400 on 22 Apr and 700 on 24 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* were the highs (BCC).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Two reports of one at Dunbar SI *Greene* 17 Apr were the first (TJD, MTW). Numbers increased throughout May, and 160 on 24 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* was the high count (BCC).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** The first were 15 on 2 May at Jensen M *Madison* (JG). The high was 21 there 14 May (JG). Two at Colo Bogs WA *Story* 19 May were the last (EM, HZ).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Reported in more counties (12) than its short-billed counterpart (10), the first was 9 Apr when 3 were at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (MTW). The high count came 2 May when 29 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

**American Woodcock:** A report of 3 on 12 Mar in *Jefferson* was the first (DCP). An admirable total of 12 in *Story* 1 Apr was the high count (TG).

**Wilson's Snipe:** The first were 16 Mar when 3 were in *Hamilton* and one was at AHHP *Story* (Larry Sirvio, SSP). Numbers peaked in late Mar through mid-Apr with a high count of 37 on 31 Mar at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (RJT). The last was 25 May at Dan Greene Sl *Clay* (JDJ).



Spotted Sandpiper, Cedar Lake, Linn, 7 May 2019. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** The first was 16 Apr at AHHP *Story* (SSP). Numbers peaked from early to mid-May, and the high count was 18 on 6 May at Green Island WA *Jackson*

(EB).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** The first was 13 Apr when a solitary bird was at AHHP *Story* (SSP). Reports were scarce, but a high count of 13 on 10 May in *Clinton* was registered (KJM).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** First: 16 at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (MTW). A sizeable group of 250 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 24 Apr was the high count (BCC).

**Willet:** Two reported 16 Apr at Green Island WA *Jackson* were the first (BW). The high count was 45 at Prairie Lake P *Black Hawk* 29 Apr (DGE). Two late migrants 31 May in *Bremer* were the last (TGS).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Two reports from Cone M *Louisa* 24 Mar were the first (CRE, LGR). A group of 57 on 13 Apr at Badger Creek RA *Madison* represented the high count (SBa). The final report was in *Sioux* 21 May (JDJ).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Four early birds observed 2 Apr in *Guthrie* were the first (RAS). A report of 97 on 2 May from Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* was the high count (RLC).



Bonaparte's Gull, Silver Lake, Worth, 13 April 2019. Photograph by Jim Rose, Mason City, IA.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** The first was 2 Apr when one was at Saylorville



Res *Polk* (AB). Numbers peaked from mid- to late Apr, with a high count of 104 in *Allamakee* 13 Apr (CHa). Two straggling migrants at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 26 May were the last (MHB-ph).

**Laughing Gull:** The only report was an adult 25 and 27 May at Red Rock Res *Marion* (CPL-ph, JAN, m.ob.).

**Franklin's Gull:** Two on 13 Mar in *Fremont* were the first (SQ). The highest total was the 1300 birds 24 May in *Fremont* (JJD).

**Ring-billed Gull:** A count of 2580 on 17 Mar in *Marion* was the high (AB).

**CALIFORNIA GULL:** Two reports: one was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 21–22 Mar (\*AB-ph, \*JB) and the other, the 2nd-latest spring record, was at Dickinson County land-fill *Dickinson* 29 May (\*JJD).

**Herring Gull:** Numbers peaked in mid- to late Mar and a high of 146 was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 23 Mar (AB). A late report from 29 May at Spirit L *Dickinson* was the last (JJD).

**Iceland Gull:** Reported in five counties this spring, birds in *Dubuque*, *Marion*, and *Polk* were documented with pictures.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Many reports came from Saylorville Res *Polk* 22–23 Mar (RLC, m.ob.).

**Glaucous Gull:** Reported in two counties: one 15 Mar at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* (BW, TM-ph), the other a 1st winter bird at Saylorville Res *Polk* 21–24 Mar (RLC, m.ob.).

**Caspian Tern:** The first was one on 26 Apr at Cedar L *Linn* (BT). Numbers peaked in mid-May, and the high count was 37 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 17 May (DW).

**Black Tern:** Seldom arriving before May, the first was not until 4 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM). A tally of 180 at Ventura M *Cerro Gordo* was the high count (PH).

**Common Tern:** This not-so-common migrant was reported in 10 counties, with the first at Jensen M *Madison* 2 May (JG-ph). High count: 5 at Pool 13 *Clinton* 10 May (KJM).

**Forester's Tern:** The first were 13 Apr, with 2 at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (RW, m.ob.) and 2 at Coralville Res *Johnson* (MHB). The high count was 62 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* on 11 May (PH).

**Red-throated Loon:** The only record from this spring was two in basic plumage at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* 18 May (JF, BCC-ph, BT).

**Common Loon:** The first and final records were both at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson*. The first was 23 Mar (KTL, m.ob.). A count of 15 at Black Hawk L *Sac* 13 Apr claimed the high count (JPF). The last was 30 May (TM).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** The first came from South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* 15 Mar (BW, TM). A count of 660 on 12 Apr at Mitchell Marsh WA *Union* was the high (DAk).

**American White Pelican:** High count: 1984 on 10 May at Pool 13 *Clinton* (KJM).

**BROWN PELICAN:** One was found 25 May amongst a flock of American White Pelicans below Red Rock Dam *Marion* (\*CPL-ph, \*JAN, m.ob.).

**American Bittern:** Reported at two locations 15 Apr: 2 at Wickiup Hill County P *Linn* (Jeff Mills), and

one at Errington M *Polk* (TJD, RJT). No more than 2 were at any one location.

**Least Bittern:** Reported in seven counties, the first was 7 May at Dunbar SI *Greene* (DCH).

**Great Blue Heron:** The high count was 32 at a rookery in *Story* 11 May (IBM).

**Great Egret:** The first came from Ottumwa *Wapello* 28 Mar (JH). Numbers peaked from early to mid-May, with the high count of 271 on 10 May at Pool 13 *Clinton* (KJM).

**Snowy Egret:** Reported in seven counties, the first was 17 Apr in *Montgomery* (Michael Pelc). Reports of 2 on 6 May in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (JF) and 20 May at Lake Orient RA *Adair* (DAk) were the high counts.

**Cattle Egret:** Recorded in 12 counties, the first was 16 Apr when 3 were in *Davis* (Randall Scheiner). A tally of 9 in *Clinton* 10 May was the high count (TM). Five in *Pottawattamie* 20 May were also notable (CoW).

**Green Heron:** The first was 19 Apr at Green Island WA *Jackson* (BW). Numbers were mediocre this spring, and the high of 3 was made 11 May at Mines of Spain RA *Dubuque* (TM).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** One on 9 Apr at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* was the first (Roger Hedge). The high count was 10, including 2 juveniles, at Sweet Marsh WA *Bremer* 11 May (CHa, WV).

**GLOSSY IBIS:** Three reports: one 17 Apr at Dunbar SI *Greene* (\*TJD, MTW, VW), one 5–6 May northeast of Errington M *Polk* (\*RIA/PHA, \*AB-ph, \*RLC, m.ob.),

and one 7 May at Cone M *Louisa* (\*FB-ph, SD).

**White-faced Ibis:** Reported in nine counties, one 31 Mar at Kiowa M *Sac* was a record-early spring report (Jeff Feisel-ph *fide* SJD). The high count of 40 was 22 Apr at Dunbar SI *Greene* (MTW-ph). The last was at Babcock Access *Johnson* 27 May (JF).

**BLACK VULTURE:** One reported 2 Apr at AHHP *Story* (\*WO).

**Turkey Vulture:** A count of 90 in Guttenberg *Clayton* 2 Apr was the high (KaB).

**Osprey:** Two reports of 4 each on 13 Apr at AHHP *Story* (SSP) and 1 May at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* were the high counts (RWR).

**WHITE-TAILED KITE:** Iowa's third record was in *Madison* 19 May (\*SJD-ph, \*AB-ph, \*RIA/PHA, JG-ph).

**Golden Eagle:** Reports were widespread, from 10 counties. The last was 19 Apr at Aldo Leopold WA *Bremer* (TGS).

**Northern Harrier:** Migrants streamed through from Mar through early Apr. A high of 8 was 4 Mar at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (Mary Schnacky).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Observed in 31 counties, the last was 22 May at New Wine County P *Dubuque* (DS).

**Cooper's Hawk:** The high count was 4 on 13 Mar in *Polk* (RJT).

**Northern Goshawk:** One report: on 6 Apr, an immature was found with a fresh Wood Duck kill at Houston P *Palo Alto* (JDJ, LAS).

**Bald Eagle:** Numbers were strong throughout Mar. There were an encouraging 11 reports of 100 or

more, and a high count of 346 on 3 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB).

**Mississippi Kite:** Five reports were made in five separate counties. The first was 8 May at Grinnell College *Poweshiek* (Ben Baldwin-ph). On 31 May, the high of 2 was in *Wapello* at Memorial P in Ottumwa--the most reliable location in the state for this species (TM-ph).



*Red-shouldered Hawk, Little Wall Lake, Hamilton, 11 March 2019. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Reported in 22 counties, the westernmost report came from *Mills* 22 Mar (Russel Crouch). The high count was 3 on 13 May at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (WV).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** First reported 11 Apr at both AHHP *Story* (WO) and *Des Moines* (BWi). Numbers were low, and the high count of 10 was at L Sugema *Van Buren* 3 May (HZ) and at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* 4 May (JDJ, BCC, DH).

**Swainson's Hawk:** The first was 9 Apr in *Greene* (MTW). Reported in 22 counties, the easternmost report

came from Grammer Grove P *Marshall* on 8 Apr (MP).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** With snow extending well into Mar, more were reported than usual. The last was 2 Apr in *Cerro Gordo* (DG).

**Barn Owl:** One report: on 4 May, one was heard at L Sugema *Van Buren* (TMH).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** There were accounts from 10 counties. A report of 2 gray morph birds in *Decatur* 26 Mar was the high count (Brett Bohnert).

**Great Horned Owl:** All reports of 3 or more involved nestlings being present. The high count of 4 was 11 May in *Story* (IBM).

**Snowy Owl:** A juvenile male was reported 24 Mar in *Hamilton* (SJD).

**Barred Owl:** The high count was 6 on 4 May at L Sugema *Van Buren* (TMH).

**Long-eared Owl:** Two reports: one was in *Story* 5 Mar (DeB), and 2 were at Hickory Hills P *Tama* 1 Apr (TSS).

**Short-eared Owl:** Found in seven counties, the high count of 6 was 5 Mar at Errington M *Polk* (JG, RJT). The last report came 19 Apr in *Cerro Gordo* (GL, Jeremy Klatt, MH).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Following a notably poor winter for this species, none were reported this spring.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Observed throughout the spring, most May reports came from counties along the Mississippi R or in northern Iowa where they breed. Numbers peaked from early to mid-Apr, and a high of 9 was at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* 13 Apr (JBo).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** There were reports as far west as *Taylor* (DAK). A high count was 4 on 3 Apr at Effigy Mounds *Allamakee* (KaB) and 10 May at Eagle Point P *Clinton* (KJM).



*Merlin, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson, 23 April 2019. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*

**Merlin:** Reported in 16 counties. The high count was 28 Apr when 2 were at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (MHB). Two reports 10 May marked the last date: one at Aspen Grove Cemetery *Des Moines* (PEL-ph), and the other at Hickory Hills P *Tama* (CPL).

**Peregrine Falcon:** This species made a strong showing with reports from 26 counties. No more than 2 were observed at any location at a given time, and several nesting at-



*Great Crested Flycatcher, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson, 10 May 2019. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

tempts were documented.

**Prairie Falcon:** The only report came 6 Mar at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

**Great-crested Flycatcher:** The first was 28 Apr when one was at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (FB, TMH). Numbers peaked mid-May, and the high count was 19 on 16 May at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (KJM).

**Western Kingbird:** Seen no farther east than *Story*, this species was first reported 5 May in *Polk* (RIA/PHA). Five on 25 May in *Pottawattamie* was the high count (JJD).

**Eastern Kingbird:** Two on 25 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* were the first (Chris Goulart). Thirty at Cone M *Louisa* claimed the high count (SD).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** One was at Lime Creek Nature Center *Cerro Gordo* 9 May (PDBS, PH, CJF, MH).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** The first was not until 6 May at Ashworth and Greenwood P *Polk* (RJT). Reported throughout May, 3 on 24 May at L Macbride *Johnson* was the high (MDR).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Several reports 4 May represented the first arrivals. Most were on territory by late May, and a season high of 21 was 16 May at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (KJM).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Observed in far greater densities this season than typical. This species was reported in 19 counties, and a high of 5 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 24 May was indicative of the terrific numbers (BCC).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** First: 5 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van*

*Buren*. A high of 7 was 16 May at Wildcat SP *Muscatine* (SN).

**Alder Flycatcher:** One in *Marion* (DW) and one in *Sioux* (JDJ) 15 May were the first. Peaking in late May, 6 on the 26th at Saylorville Res *Polk* was the high count (AB).

**Willow Flycatcher:** The record-early date was tied with a report 5 May at L Sugema *Van Buren* (JB, LQ, RAS, CRE). The high of 9 was in *Buena Vista* 16 May (AJ).

**Least Flycatcher:** The high of 16 was 10 May at Eagle Point P *Clinton* (KJM).

**Eastern Phoebe:** The first was 16 Mar at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (JeB). Peak numbers were early to mid-Apr, and a high of 15 was 14 Apr at Walnut Woods SP *Polk* (JG).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** The first was 25 Mar in *Boone* (SJD). Observed in 8 counties, all were singles.

**Northern Shrike:** Observed in 9 counties, all were singles. One 6 Apr at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (BC) was a few days from the 3rd-latest spring record.

**White-eyed Vireo:** Recorded in 8 counties as far north as *Black Hawk* and *Delaware*. The first were 21 Apr when 3 were in *Lee* (CHa). High count: 12 at Shimek SF *Lee* 13 May (JF).

**Bell's Vireo:** The first were widely documented 4 May in *Van Buren* during the IOU meeting. A count of 6 on 26 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* was the high (MHB).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** One on 1 May at Walnut Woods SP *Polk* was the first (JG). Increasing until late May, the high of 18 was 16 May at Wildcat SP *Muscatine* (KJM).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** One on 20

Apr at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* was first (SMF). Numbers began to peak early May, and 10 at Brookside P *Story* on the 6th was the high (NP).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** One on 6 May at Brookside P *Story* was the first (Julian Grudens). Five on 22 May at Ashworth and Greenwood P *Polk* was the high count (RLC). Several were noted through the end of May.

**Warbling Vireo:** Two reports from 24 Apr in *Polk* were first: one at Gray's Lake P (JB) and one at Saylorville Res (DTh). On 24 May, the high count of 12 was in *Muscatine* (DG).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** One at Deer Island WA *Harrison* on 1 May was first (Jeffrey Gleason). A spectacular fallout of 50 on 21 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* was the high (LGR).

**FISH CROW:** A report from Saylorville Res *Polk* 11 May (\*DTh) was accepted.

**Horned Lark:** Numbers peaked early Mar with high counts of 179 on 8 Mar at Spring Run Complex WA *Dickinson* and 150 on 2 Mar in *Winnebago* 2 Mar (DAB, RAS).



*Purple Martin, Walnut Woods State Park, Polk, 17 April 2019. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.*

**Purple Martin:** Three on 23





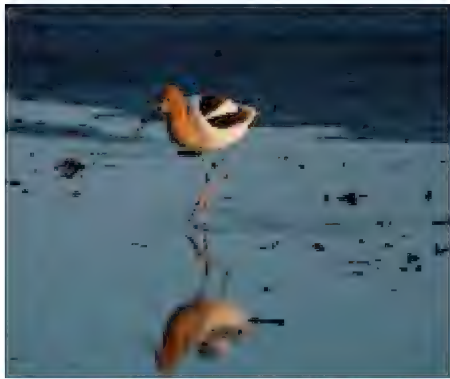
*Trumpeter Swan, Nora Springs, Cerro Gordo, 11 March 2019. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*



*Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ledges State Park, Boone, 25 May 2019. Photograph by Douglas Harr, Ogden, IA.*



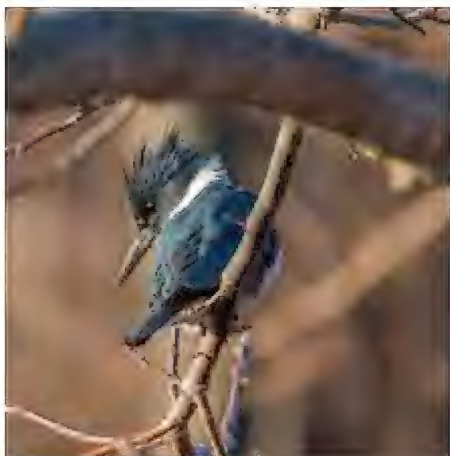
*Sandhill Crane, Cone Marsh, Louisa, 21 March 2019. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*



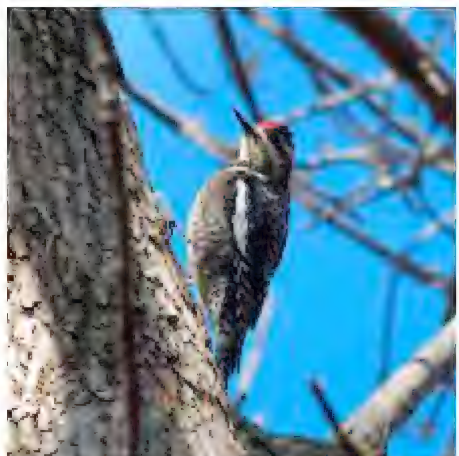
*American Avocet, Zirbel Slough, Cerro Gordo, 16 April 2019. Photograph by Jim Rose, Mason City, IA.*



*Short-eared Owl, Errington Marsh, Polk, 5 March 2019. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.*



*Belted Kingfisher, Mason City, Cerro Gordo, 15 April 2019. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*



*Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ottosen, Humboldt, 13 April 2019. Photograph by Jacob Newton, Ottosen, IA.*

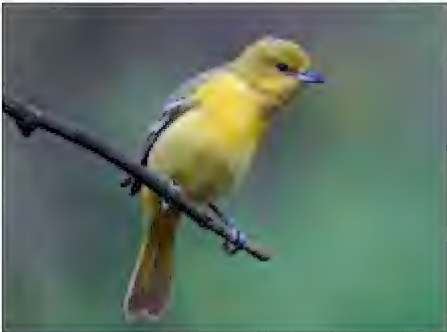




*Eastern Wood-Pewee, Ledges State Park, Story, 20 May 2019. Photograph by Douglas Harr, Ogden, IA.*



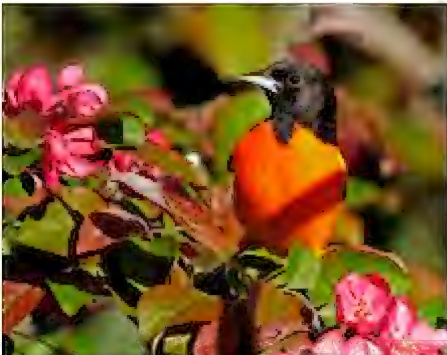
*Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brower Lake, Woodbury, 16 May 2019. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*



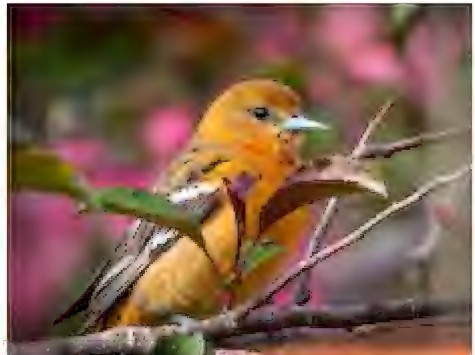
*Orchard Oriole, Iowa City, Johnson, 8 May 2019. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



*Orchard Oriole, Portland, Cerro Gordo, 23 May 2019. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*



*Baltimore Oriole, Boone, 10 May 2019. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Baltimore Oriole, Mason City, Cerro Gordo, 23 May 2019. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*



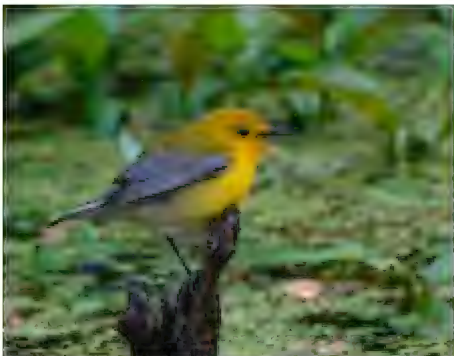
*Bullock's Oriole, Ames, Story, 19 May 2019. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



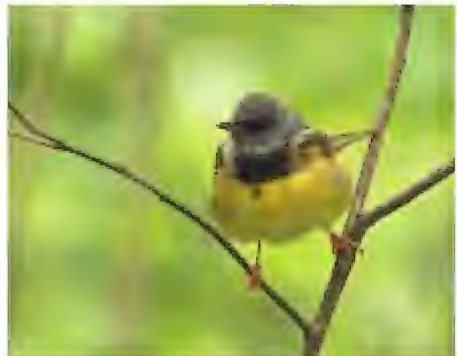
*Worm-eating Warbler, University of Iowa Research Park, Johnson, 22 April 2019. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*



*Connecticut Warbler, Chichaqua Bottoms, Polk, 20 May 2019. Photograph by Tom Dougherty, Urbandale, IA.*



*Prothonotary Warbler, Chichaqua Bottoms, Polk, 23 May 2019. Photograph by Tom Dougherty, Urbandale, IA.*



*Mourning Warbler, Lost Island State Park, Palo Alto, 22 May 2019. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Bay-breasted Warbler, Pilot Knob State Park, Hancock, 26 May 2019. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*



*Kentucky Warbler, Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, Van Buren, 5 May 2019. Photograph by John Rutenbeck, Longmont, CO.*



*Yellow-throated Warbler, Iowa City, Johnson, 17 April 2019. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



*Prairie Warbler, Croton Unit, Shimek State Forest, Lee, 13 May 2019. Photograph by James Forde, Cedar Rapids, IA.*



Mar at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* were the first (BW). High count: 50 on 16 Apr at the appropriately named Purple Martin Lake Water Resource Area *Polk* (CY).

**Tree Swallow:** First: 21 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (PP). Strong numbers continued throughout Apr, and a high of 600 was at Green Island WA *Jackson* 11 May (BW).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** First: One on 7 Apr at L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB). Numbers peaked from late Apr to mid-May, and a high of 61 was at Green Island WA *Jackson* 1 May (TM).

**Bank Swallow:** The first was a single on 12 Apr at Lake of Three Fires SP *Taylor* (DAK). The high count of 80 was 3 May in *Mills* (NP) and 10 May in *Woodbury* (POR).

**Cliff Swallow:** A group of 8 at Gray's Lake P *Polk* 17 Apr was the first (JB). The most came 21 May when 350 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

**Barn Swallow:** Two reports 6 Apr were the first: one in *Jackson* (BW) and another in *Lee* (BD). Numbers peaked from late Apr to mid-May, and a high of 200 was 30 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (Dominic Sherony).

**Tufted Titmouse:** Eleven on 26 Mar at Jefferson County P *Jefferson* was the high (TMC).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** It was evident that large numbers wandered south during the winter and continued through May. Reported in a phenomenal 55 counties, the high count of 6 was 12 May at Hickory Hills P *Tama* (CHa) and again 13 May at the same location (CPL-ph). Apparently a hotspot for this species, Hickory

Hills P also claimed the last on 31 May (TSS).

**Brown Creeper:** Numbers peaked around mid-Apr, with a high of 15 at Indian Creek Nature Center *Linn* 13 Apr (TW, DWa), and again at Squaw Creek P *Linn* 17 Apr (BCC). The last was one on 19 May at Effigy Mounds NM *Allamakee* (KaB).

**House Wren:** An early arrival 8 Apr at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* was the first (BE). A high count of 43 was at Eagle Point P *Clinton* (KJM).

**Winter Wren:** Observed in 24 counties this spring, the high count was 6 on 13 Apr at Bever P *Linn* (BSc). Several persisted into May.

**Sedge Wren:** A solid 18 at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 10 May was the high count (KVS).

**Marsh Wren:** The first was 19 Apr at AHHP *Story* (CPL-ph). Highs of 19 came from Trumbull L *Clay* 23 May and Dan Green Sl *Clay* 25 May (JDJ).

**Carolina Wren:** Three on 26 Apr at Bever P *Linn* was the high (WWH). Two at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* 7 May were the most northwesterly (RWR).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** The first arrived 6 Apr at Big Marsh WA *Butler* (TSS). Numbers peaked late Apr through early May, and an extraordinary high count of 50 on 4 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* was made during the IOU spring meeting (KVS, TJD).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** None until 25 Mar when a pair was at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC). A high of 12 was on 13 Apr at Indian Creek Nature Reserve *Linn* (TW, DWa).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** The first were 28 Mar when 4 reports were submitted in 4 counties. Large numbers moved through between mid-Apr and early May. Two counts in *Story* of 25 were the high: Carr Woods 17 Apr (IBM) and Peterson Pits P 6 May (BeW, ZC).

**Eastern Bluebird:** First report was a pair on 2 Mar in *Jefferson* (Julie Johnston). Several reports of 9 throughout the spring were the high counts.

**VARIED THRUSH:** A continuing holdout from winter was reported at a residence in *Black Hawk* 2 and 10 Mar (\*TM, \*JMc).

**Veery:** A fairly early report from 3 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* was first (TM). The high count was 10 May when 5 were at Eagle Point P *Clinton* (KJM).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** One on 4 May in *Linn* was the first (Christopher Turkovich). A high of 11 was detected during a nocturnal flight count in *Linn* 15 May (Jessie Ellis).

**Swainson's Thrush:** Several reports from 1 May indicated the arrival of this species. Numbers peaked from mid- to late May, with a high of 24 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 27 May (RLC).

**Hermit Thrush:** A presumable winter holdout on 3 Mar at Shaver P *Linn* was first (BSc). Peaking in early to mid-Apr, the high of 34 was 13 Apr at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JBo).

**Wood Thrush:** First: One on 30 Apr at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JMc). Numbers peaked from early to mid-May, and 9 on 13 May at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* was the high (DG).

**American Robin:** The top two

high counts came 26 Mar when tallies of 480 and 440 were reported in *Page* (DAk).



Gray Catbird, Iowa City, Johnson, 8 May 2019.  
Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.

**Gray Catbird:** Numbers peaked until late May and a high count of 53 was at Eagle Point P *Clinton* 10 May (KJM).

**Brown Thrasher:** The first was 26 Mar in *Page* (DAk). Numbers peaked from mid- to late Apr, and a high count of 9 was in *Lucas* 26 May (CPL).

**Northern Mockingbird:** Observed in 14 counties. A continuing bird from the winter season was the first spring report 4 Mar at Wiese Slough WA *Muscatine* for the first spring report (BCC-ph).

**Cedar Waxwing:** A high of 178 was at AHHP *Story* 12 Mar (WO).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** Most of the 19 counties with observations were in the southeastern portion of the state. High count: 36 on 5 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB).

**House Sparrow x Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** A bird at the Red Rock Res Visitor Center *Marion* 3 Mar and 17 Mar was documented with photos (AB-ph).

**American Pipit:** Reports from 14 counties were submitted from

scattered locations. The first was in *Woodbury* 23 Mar (POR). On 8 Apr, 23 at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* was the high count (KVS). Two reports of late birds were made 13 May: 3 at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM) and one at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

**Purple Finch:** An impressive 42 on 14 Apr in *Muscatine* was the high count (SN). Two on 10 May at Hickory Hills P *Tama* were the last (CPL-ph).

**Pine Siskin:** A high of 31 was in *Butler* 1 Mar (BDB). On 31 May, 6 were observed in Mason City *Cerro Gordo*, where a couple of pairs were reported to have bred (PH).

**Lapland Longspur:** Modest numbers this spring, with the high count of 100 on 9 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (SMF). The last report came 16 Apr from Legacy WA *Hardin* (TSS).

**Smith's Longspur:** Incredibly, the high count equaled that of Lapland Longspurs this spring, with 100 on 28 Mar in *Muscatine* (Gary Nunn). The last were 4 on 22 Apr in *Adams* (DAK).

**Snow Bunting:** Reported in 12 counties, the high count came 8 Mar when 14 were at Spring Run Complex WA *Dickinson* (DAB). The last were 2 on 12 Mar in *Buchanan* (WV).

**Eastern Towhee:** A continuing holdout from winter seen 3 Mar at Jefferson County P *Jefferson* was the first (TMC, m.ob.). The high count, by a long shot, was 20 at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* 4 May (KVS, TJD).

**Spotted Towhee:** Reported 27–28 Apr at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (RWR, RC) and at Oak Grove & Big

Sioux P *Sioux* 23 May (KVZ).



*Eastern Towhee, Squaw Creek Park, Linn, 20 May 2019. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*

**American Tree Sparrow:** The high count was 43 on 9 Mar in *Poweshiek* (CPL, MKS). Last: 2 on 30 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JMc).

**Chipping Sparrow:** First: 2 at Cone M *Louisa* 26 Mar (RAS). A tally of 50 at Sertoma P *Woodbury* 9 May was the high (RWR).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** A record-early bird was observed 31 Mar at Big Creek WA *Polk* (AB-ph). The high count was 7 in *Sioux* 7 May (JDJ).

**Field Sparrow:** The first was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 17 Mar (AB-ph). Peaking just after mid-Apr, the high of 17 was 22 Apr at Lake Anita SP *Cass* (DAK).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Two on 25 Mar at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* were the first (DTh). High count: 7 on 28 Apr at Snake Creek Marsh WA *Greene* (KVS, SCS).

**Lark Sparrow:** Three in *Ringgold* 14 Apr were the first (JLi). Peaking late Apr through mid-May, a high of 13 was in *Woodbury* 13 May (POR).

**Savannah Sparrow:** The first was 15 Mar at Errington M *Polk*

(RLC). The high was 40 on 26 Apr at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (RC).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Two reports from 21 Apr were the first: one at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (AB) and one at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (MTW). Ten on 2 May at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS) and 4 May in *Van Buren* (BCC) were the high counts.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Observed in 19 counties, the first were 5 on 8 Apr at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS). The high count came from the same location 25 Apr when 27 were reported (KVS).

**LeConte's Sparrow:** The first of the nine reports was 13 Apr at AHHP *Story* (SSP).

**Nelson's Sparrow:** One at Legacy WA *Hardin* 13 May was the lone report (MP).

**Fox Sparrow:** Numbers peaked from early to mid-Apr with a stellar high count of 58 on 12 Apr in *Sioux* (JDJ).



*Song Sparrow, Johnston, Polk, 16 May 2019. Photograph by Tom Dougherty, Urbandale, IA.*

**Song Sparrow:** Peaking late Mar to mid-Apr, the high was 45 on 13 Apr at AHHP *Story* (SSP).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** First report-

ed 6 Apr in four counties. Numbers peaked in early May when 17 were at Brookside P *Story* 6 May (SSP). The final reports were in *Story* 23 May: 3 at McFarland P (Dylan Osterhaus) and one at AHHP (WO).

**Swamp Sparrow:** The first was 4 Mar at Wiese Slough WA *Muscatine* (BCC). Peaking mid-Apr, 4 of the 5 high counts came from AHHP *Story*. The most was 36 there on 13 Apr (SSP).

**White-throated Sparrow:** Numbers peaked in early May with a high of 300 at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (BCC). The last came from Muskrat Slough WA *Jones* 30 May (BCC-ph).

**Harris's Sparrow:** Reported as far east as *Dubuque*, the high count was 31 on 7 May in *Sioux* (JDJ). The last was 21 May in *Sioux* (JDJ).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** The high count of 19 was on 10 May at Eagle Point P *Clinton* (KJM). Two on 23 May at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* were the last (JeB).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** Numbers peaked early Apr when 100 were at Dordt Prairie *Sioux* (KVZ). A bird 4 May at Stone SP *Woodbury* was the last (POR).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** A plethora of reports from 4 May were the first. Reported in 8 counties, the northernmost report was from *Dubuque* 16 May (TM-ph). The high count of 5 was made on 13 and 17 May in *Lee* (JF, KBe).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** First: 20 Mar at Marsh Farm Wetland *Dallas* (MTW). The high count of 50 was at Dunbar Sl *Greene* 20 Apr (DAk) and 26 May at Eagle Flats WA *Hancock* (BCC).

**Bobolink:** Reports made in sev-



eral counties 3 May marked the arrival of this species. The high of 30 was reported 27 May in *Wayne* (KB).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** First reported 11 Mar when one was singing at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS). High count: 40 on 7 Apr at Kellerton WA *Ringgold* (Warren Wicks).

**Western Meadowlark:** Reported in several counties that border the Mississippi R, this species was found throughout the state. The most were 25 in *Woodbury* 11 May (POR).

**Orchard Oriole:** The first was 29 Apr at Camp Snoopy *Lucas* (KW). More common in the western half of the state, highs of 10 were reported 19 and 24 May at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (Kyle Rohlfing, Brenda Gonzales) and at Oak Grove County P *Sioux* 28 May (JJD).

**BULLOCK'S ORIOLE:** A female at Stephen J. Dinsmore's feeders in Ames *Story* 19 May was the lone record (\*SJD-ph).

**Baltimore Oriole:** On 26 Apr, the first was at L Sugema *Van Buren* (CRE). The high of 22 was 16 May at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (KJM).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** The high count was 26 Mar when 340 were in *Page* (DAK).

**Rusty Blackbird:** The first were 2 Mar at the Brenton Feedlot *Dallas* (AB, BE, JB). The high count was an encouraging 150 on 31 Mar in Donnellson *Lee* (James Hickner). Three reports from 23 Apr marked the last.

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Reported in 23 counties, the first was at Brower L *Woodbury* (POR). A notable 60 at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* was the high count (JF). A report of 5 at Harrier Marsh WA *Boone* 4 May was the last (BMW, ZC).

**Great-tailed Grackle:** Reported in 16 counties, the first was 6 Mar when 75 were in *Fremont* (SQ).

**Ovenbird:** Two reports 24 Apr were the first: 2 at Stephens SF—Lucas Unit *Lucas* (JG) and one at Preparation Canyon SP *Monona* (GLV). High count: 21 on 10 May at Eagle Point P *Clinton* (KJM).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** Reported in 6 counties, one on 22 Apr at the University of Iowa Research P *Johnson* was the 2nd-earliest record (JDM, BCC-ph, MHB-ph). One at Emma McCarthy Lee P *Story* 14 May was notable (EEO). Another found 27 May at Camp Klaus *Clayton* was the northernmost report (DAK).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** A record-early bird was 14 Mar at Ledges SP *Boone* (TMH). The high count was 5 on 11 May at Mines of Spain RA *Dubuque* (TM).

**Northern Waterthrush:** An early arrival 16 Apr at Ledges SP *Boone* was the first (Aric Runge). Numbers peaked early to mid-May, and a high of 14 was 10 May in *Clinton* (KJM). The last was 26 May at Mines of Spain RA *Dubuque* (DAS).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** A



*Black-and-white Warbler, Johnson, 10 May 2019. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*



singing male 3 May at Shimek SMF *Lee* was the first (JR). A count of 9 on 10 May at Eagle Point P *Clinton* was the high (KJM). On 27 May, the last was at Sycamore Access *Polk* (KVS).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** The first was at Macbride Nature RA *Johnson* (MHB). A report of 8 at Argyle Junkyard *Lee* 4 May was the high (JBo).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** Two on 21 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* were the first (KVS, SCS). A count of 23 on 10 May at Eagle Point P *Clinton* was the high (KJM). The last was 29 May at AHHP *Story* (WO).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Reported in 21 counties, the most was 7 on 7 May at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (DTh).

**Tennessee Warbler:** The first was at Hitchcock Nature Center *Pottawattamie* 27 Apr (Allison Johnson, Sahas Barve). A high of 52 was at Kettleson Hogsback WA *Dickinson* 21 May (MHB). This species stuck around through May.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** The first was 16 Apr at AHHP *Story* (WO). Numbers peaked from late Apr to early May with a high of 7 at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* 28 Apr (MHB). The last was 26 May in *Story* (SSP).

**Nashville Warbler:** One in *Linn* 23 Apr was the first (BSc). Hickory Hill P *Johnson* experienced high numbers around mid-May, with a high of 30 there 14 May (TW, DWa).

**Connecticut Warbler:** Phenomenal numbers, with reports from 10 counties. An early arrival 9 May at Seminole Valley P *Linn* was the first (BT). A fantastic tally of 6 at Grammar Grove P *Marshall* 22 May was

the high (MP).

**Mourning Warbler:** An early report from 10 May at Hickory Hills P *Tama* was the first (CPL-ph). A count of 8 on 18 May at Stolley Gravel Pit P *Clay* was the high (LAS).

**Kentucky Warbler:** On 3 May, the first 3 were at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (JDJ). Observed in 12 counties, the high count was 12 on 5 May in *Van Buren* (NP).

**Common Yellowthroat:** A day off from the 3rd-earliest record, the first was a female observed 21 Apr in *Lee* (CHa). Several fantastic counts were made at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper*, but the best was 54 on 16 May (KVS).

**Hooded Warbler:** Six counties had records for this spring. The first was 21 Apr in *Polk* (RJT-ph). Sightings at Effigy Mounds NM *Allamakee* 20 May (Sandy Pankratz, Mark Stensaas-ph) and *Cerro Gordo* 26 May (MH) were the northernmost reports.

**American Redstart:** An apparent influx of this species entered the state 3 May, as a handful of reports documented the first arrivals. A high of 72 at Eagle Point P *Clinton* 10 May was notable (KJM).

**Cape May Warbler:** This species had a strong movement through the state this spring, reported in 22 counties. The first was at Charma P *Black Hawk* 5 May (BF). The high count was 7 at Cone M *Louisa* 11 May (JBo). One on 25 May at Dordt Prairie *Sioux* was the last (KVZ).

**Cerulean Warbler:** The first was 2 May at Pammel SP *Madison* (SBa). The high count was 7 on 19 May at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (EEO, Rachel Clark). A report of a

female at Brookside P *Story* 19 May was notable (SSP).

**Northern Parula:** First: 18 Apr at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (SN). Numbers peaked early to mid-May, and a high of 9 was at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* 4 May (KVS, TJD).

**Magnolia Warbler:** A report from 3 May at Shimek SF *Van Buren* was the first (JR). A high of 18 on 10 May was at Eagle Point P *Clinton* (KJM).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** The first were 7 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (RC) and Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (SMF). A high of 4 was at Grammer Grove P *Marshall* 14 May (MP) and at Brookside P *Story* 19 May (SSP).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** Reports from multiple counties 6 May marked the first. The high was 10 at Stolley Gravel Pit P *Clay* 18 May (LAS).

**Yellow Warbler:** A bird at AHHP *Story* 22 Apr was the first (AN-ph). The high count was 32 at Thunder Bridge Wildlife Refuge *Clay* (JDJ).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Several reports 5 May were the first. Numbers peaked after mid-May, and a high of 18 was at Fairmount Cemetery *Scott* 11 May (KJM).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** First: one on 1 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh). A count of 11 at Kettleson Hogsback WA *Dickinson* was the high (MHB).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** One report: a female in *Sioux* 15 May (JDJ).

**Palm Warbler:** First: one at AHHP 18 Apr (WO). The high count

was 32 at Prairie Ridge M *Black Hawk* 6 May (TSS). The last was at Reactor Woods, Ames *Story* 21 May (EEO).

**Pine Warbler:** Observed in 12 counties, numbers were higher than usual. The first was in *Des Moines* 11 Apr (BWi). Five at Shimek SF *Van Buren* was the high count (MHB). One on 15 May at Robinson Bird Sanctuary *Black Hawk* was the last (DGE).



*Yellow-rumped Warbler, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson, 23 April 2019. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Two at Ventura M *Cerro Gordo* 20 Mar were the first (GL). Numbers peaked in late Apr with a tremendous 400 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* on the 24th (BCC). The last was 29 May at AHHP *Story* (WO).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** The first were 16 Apr when 2 were at Ashworth P *Polk* (JB) and 4 were at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (DG). Wildcat Den SP also had the high count with 5 on 5 May (SN).

**PRAIRIE WARBLER:** Reported in 3 counties: one on 22 May at Trestle Trail *Polk* (\*SCS), one at FDR P *Dubuque* 19–20 May (\*TM, \*DAS), and 3 in *Lee* 13–17 May (\*JF, \*KBe).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** The first were 3 May in a few counties. The high of 12 was 9 May at Fairmount Cemetery *Scott* (KJM). The last were 26 May at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* with reports of 2 (BCC) and one (JB).

**Canada Warbler:** The most were 8 on 20 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (DH).

**Wilson's Warbler:** The first was 5 May at Greenbelt L *Black Hawk* (DGE). Peaking just after mid-May, a high count of 10 was made 18 May at Stolley Gravel Pit P *Clay* (LAS).

**Summer Tanager:** First: one on 3 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (KVS). The high count was 8 on 13 May at Geode SP *Henry* (SBa). The northernmost was 16 May in *Sioux* (Sue Kroesche-ph).

**Scarlet Tanager:** A large influx arrived in early May, and 4 on 3 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* were the first (KVS). High count: 11 at Squaw Creek P *Linn* 22 May (JOD).

**WESTERN TANAGER:** Two reports: a male at a residence in Nevada *Story* 7 May (\*Kathi Cunningham-ph) and a male 18 May at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (\*DG).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** The first arrived 24 Apr at Camp Snoopy *Lucas* (KW). Numbers peaked from early to mid-May, and 23 at Eagle Point P *Clinton* 10 May was the high (KJM).

**Blue Grosbeak:** A handful of reports from 4 May in *Van Buren* and *Lee* marked the first arrivals. This species was detected in 12 counties. No more than 2 were reported.

**Indigo Bunting:** A report from Jefferson County P *Jefferson* 23 Apr represented the first (TMC). A count of 44 on 16 May at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* was the high (KJM).

**Dickcissel:** The first were 4 May at Big Creek SP *Polk* (Blake Walter) and *Buchanan* (WV). A total of 65 in *Wayne* 27 May was the high count (KB).



*Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson, 26 May 2019. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

## COMMENT:

Please be sure to fill out documentation for accidental or casual species on the IOU website. Submitting an eBird report is not sufficient for official documentation. In order for a report of an accidental or casual species to be accepted into the field report, it must be accepted by the IOU Records Committee so that it is part of the official record.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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# Report of the Records Committee for 2018

Paul Hertzel

No new species were considered by the Records Committee in 2018, so the state list remained at 429 species. Over the last ten years, an average of one new species has been added each year.

2017 White-tailed Kite, Bar-tailed Godwit

2016 Inca Dove

2015 Brown Booby

2014 –

2013 Glaucous-winged Gull

2012 –

2011 Broad-billed Hummingbird

2010 Anna's Hummingbird, Pacific Wren

2009 Violet-green Swallow, Fulvous Whistling-Duck

2008 Scott's Oriole

Although no new species were added to the state list in 2018, the American Ornithological Society (AOS) did make technical changes to the Checklist of North American Birds, some of which affect the Iowa list. First, to *Perisoreus canadensis*, the AOS restored the name Canada Jay, formerly Gray Jay. The name Canada Jay “reflects the scientific name of the species and its main area of distribution, and is symmetrical with the geographical names of the other jays in this genus” (Chesser 2018).

Second, the AOS made changes to scientific names which included six species on the Iowa state list:

Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	→ <i>Dryobates pubescens</i>
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	→ <i>Dryobates villosus</i>
Baird's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>	→ <i>Centronyx bairdii</i>
Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	→ <i>Centronyx henslowii</i>
LeConte's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>	→ <i>Ammospiza leconteii</i>
Nelson's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus nelson</i>	→ <i>Ammospiza nelson</i>

At the annual meeting of the Records Committee, held 27 October 2018 at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, changes were made to the status of four species on the checklist. Barrow's Goldeneye and Mew Gull changed from



“Casual” to “Accidental” status, and Swallow-tailed Kite and Varied Thrush changed to “Casual”. The assignment of status is based on the number of records occurring during the previous ten years. A “Regular” species is one in which there are records in 8, 9, or 10 of the most recent 10 years. A “Casual” species is one in which there are records in from 3 to 8 years, and an “Accidental” species is one in which there are records in 3 or fewer years.

## 2018 RECORDS

A total of 47 records were reviewed by the Committee in 2018 with 41 of these records accepted and six not accepted. The Committee appreciates the efforts of those who document Iowa’s bird life and regards each record as deserving thoughtful, careful treatment in its review.

Each record reviewed is assigned a six-digit number (year and sequence number) which is included in this report for future reference. Records are classified as follows: A = Accepted (-S = specimen, -P = photograph, -R = recording, -D = documentation) and NA = Not Accepted. In order to be accepted, a record must receive seven votes on the initial review or more than five votes on a subsequent review. The subcategories A-S, A-P, and A-R reflect the majority’s opinion and indicate that physical evidence supports the identification. References to *IBL* are the page of the Field Reports or a special note in *Iowa Bird Life* where the record is cited. Published notes and previous citations may contain more details.

## 2018 RECORDS ACCEPTED

### **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:**

At Copper Creek L *Polk* one was found 9 Jun (2018-40, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 88:145); another was photographed 2 Jul at Saddleback Ridge Golf Course near Solon *Johnson* (2018-27, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 88:145).

**Mottled Duck:** Iowa’s 7th record was found in rural *Polk* near Moeckly Prairie 26-27 Aug (2018-33, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 89:19).

**Barrow’s Goldeneye:** An adult male on 19-29 Jan was present at Le Claire *Scott* (2018-05, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 88:69).

**Rufous Hummingbird:** A single adult male was photographed on 13 Apr at a feeder in a rural *Ida* yard (2018-10, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 88:106).

**Pomarine Jaeger:** Iowa’s 5th record for Pomarine Jaeger was an adult found at Red Rock Res *Marion* 8 Sep (2018-31, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 89:24).

**Parasitic Jaeger:** Iowa’s first summer record for Parasitic Jaeger occurred 13 June at Hawkeye WA *Johnson*. (2018-19, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 88:149); a juvenile dark morph was present at Saylorville Res *Polk* 28-29 Aug (2018-34, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 89:24, cover 89(1)).

**California Gull:** An adult in alternate plumage was near the landfill in *Dickinson* on 22 Jul (2018-28, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 89:150); a basic adult was at the Fort Madison riverfront *Lee* 12 Nov (2018-38, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 89:29).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** An adult during 8–26 Feb at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* (2018-07, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 88:70).

**Little Blue Heron:** A white, first spring individual was at Ada Hayden P *Story* 23–24 Apr (2018-44, **A-D** 7–0, *IBL* 88:119); an adult was at L Macbride *Johnson* 20–22 May (2018-22, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 88:120); a calico individual was at Ada Hayden P *Story* 5 Jul (2018-46, **A-D** 7–0, *IBL* 88:151); another calico was at Nahant M *Scott* 21 Jul (2018-47, **A-D** 7–0, *IBL* 88:151); a juvenile was at Sandpiper RA *Polk* 9–12 Aug (2018-29, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 89:25, 30);

**Glossy Ibis:** One was found foraging at Colo Bogs *Story* along with two White-faced Ibis 6–7 May (2018-13, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 88:120); a lone bird was at Table Marsh *Woodbury* on 10 May (2018-21, **A-D** 5–2, 6–1, *IBL* 88:120).



Roseate Spoonbill, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson, 15 August 2018. Photograph by Jim Forde, Cedar Rapids, IA.

**Roseate Spoonbill:** Iowa's 5th

record spent 10–18 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson*. (2018-25, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 89:30).

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** One was in rural *Clinton* 29 Aug–4 Sep (2018-26, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 89:31).

**Burrowing Owl:** A single, calling bird persisted at a burrow in a *Humboldt* agricultural field during the period 15–30 May (2018-16, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 88:121, cover 88(3), Newton 2018).

**Say's Phoebe:** One was found 26 Oct foraging over a short grass *Union* pasture (2018-37, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 89:33).

**Fish Crow:** One was photographed and had its voice recorded on 22 Apr at Jester P *Polk* (2018-45, **A-R** 5–2, 7–0, *IBL* 88:123); two adults at Sandpiper RA along Saylorville Res *Polk* 12 Aug were last seen 15 Sep (2018-32, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 89:34, Dinsmore 2019).

**House Wren:** An unusual winter record occurred 15 Dec during the Red Rock Res *Marion* Christmas Bird Count (2018-42, **A-D** 7–0, *IBL* 89:56, 66, 81).

**Mountain Bluebird:** One or two during 1 Jan–16 Feb at Waterman Creek *O'Brien* (2018-06, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 88:75); an adult male was in rural *Davis* during 7–11 Apr (2018-17, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 88:124).

**Varied Thrush:** One provided great photo opportunities for many at Lime Creek Nature Center *Cerro Gordo* 18–24 Nov (2018-39, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 89:27, 35).

**Evening Grosbeak:** An adult male at an Ames *Story* feeder 24–25 Feb (2018-08, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 88:75); an adult male on 18 Apr in Oskaloosa *Mahaska* (2018-11, **A-P** 7–0,

IBL 88:125); a female on 22 Apr in *Muscatine* (2018-12, A-P 7-0, IBL 88:125); an adult male on 9 May at an Ames *Story* feeder (2018-41, A-P 7-0, IBL 88:125).



Evening Grosbeak, Muscatine, 22 April 2018. Photograph by Susan Nixon, Muscatine, IA.

**Hoary Redpoll:** 13 Jan in Spencer *Clay*, at least one in with about 40 Common Redpolls (2018-01, A-D 7-0, IBL 88:76); 29 Jan in rural *Kosuth*, at least one of 4 birds described was accepted as Hoary Redpoll (2018-02, A-D 6-1, 7-0, IBL 88:76); 11 Jan-18 Feb *Dickinson*, one in with about 20 Common Redpolls (2018-03, A-D 7-0, IBL 88:76); one visiting a Norwalk *Warren* feeder 21



Hoary Redpoll, Oak Grove Recreation Area, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 18 March 2018. Photograph by Aaron Brees, Polk City, IA.

Feb (2018-04, A-P 7-0, IBL 88:76); one in a flock of about 70 redpolls on 18 Mar at Oak Grove RA *Polk* (2018-09, A-P 7-0, IBL 88:76).

**Prairie Warbler:** A singing male was present 13 May-21 Jun at the Croton Unit of Shimek State Forest *Lee* (2018-15, A-P 7-0, IBL 88:131, 158, cover 88(4)).

**Western Tanager:** A basic adult was photographed at a feeder in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* 16 Dec (2018-43, A-P 7-0, IBL 89:56, 66, 73).

**Painted Bunting:** A male was at a feeder in *Pottawattamie* on 9 May (2018-14, A-P 7-0, IBL 88:131); an adult male spent 8-17 Aug at Ada Hayden P *Story* (2018-24, A-P 7-0, IBL 89:42).



Painted Bunting, Ada Hayden Heritage Park, Story, 11 August 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.

## 2018 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

**Clark's Grebe:** After a heavily split vote in the first round of deliberation, all reviewers eventually came to the same conclusion that the documentation did not definitively eliminate a Western or a hybrid grebe (2018-36, NA 4-3, 0-7).

**Whooping Crane:** The bird documented showed no bands, tags or transmitters, which suggested the bird may have been a member of the wild, Canadian population. However, the date (early September) was wrong for a migrant from that population. After considerable discussion, including individuals involved in the Wisconsin reintroduction project who could not confirm the origin of the bird, opinions remained split (2018-35, NA 6-1, 5-2).

**Yellow-billed Loon:** Shortly after a bird reported at Jensen M in Madison disappeared, a loon specimen was recovered from the edge of the marsh. It was taken to an ISU lab where it was identified as a Common Loon with yellowish stains on

its bill. Although the presence at the marsh of both species remains a possibility, five committee members thought there was reasonable doubt (2018-18, NA 2-5).

**Black-billed Magpie:** A single photo of a partially hidden perched bird was not conclusive (2018-20, NA 4-3, 1-6).

**Bewick's Wren:** The brevity of the description, a single short sentence, indicated the observer did not understand it would be read critically by a panel of experts (2018-23, NA 0-7).

**Black-headed Grosbeak:** Five reviewers thought the description and photo did not eliminate the more expected Rose-breasted Grosbeak (2018-30, NA 2-5).

The recording and preserving of the Iowa ornithological record takes the critical actions of people, such as the 49 who provided documentations for the records contained in this report. Listed along with the number of documentations submitted in 2018, they are: Stephen J. Dinsmore 8, Paul Roisen 8, John Bissell 5, Mark Brown 5, James Forde 5, Aaron Brees 4, Brandon Caswell 4, Clayton Will 4, Chris Edwards 3, Jay Gilliam 3, Tyler Harms 3, Ann Johnson, 3, Lee Schoenewe 3, Eric Ollie 2, Jim Rose 2, Linda Rudolph 2, Ben Baldwin 1, Sharon Bauer 1, Anne Brown 1, Linda Coady 1, Ray Cummins 1, James J. Dinsmore 1, Allison Drees 1, James L. Fuller 1, Tyler Grant 1, David Griffin 1, T.J. Herrick 1, Paul Hertzell 1, Dean Hester 1, Brian Hicks 1, Mary Hodak 1, Rick Hollis 1, Kelly McKay 1, Tony Moline 1, Tom Moon 1, Ben Nettleton 1, Jacob Newton 1, Susan Nixon 1, Don Poggensee 1, Mark Rolfes 1, Richard Sayles 1, Paul Skrade 1, Randall Scheiner 1, Dean Schettler 1, Tommy Stone 1, Chris Strong 1, Ed Thelen 1, Monica Verros 1, Hank Zaletel 1. The IOU sincerely appreciates the efforts of these people in helping discover, preserve, and publish the record of Iowa's dynamic avian presence.

Committee members for 2018 with years in which their terms expire were: Ann Johnson (2018), Bill Scheible (2019), Karen Viste-Sparkman (2020), Paul Skrade (2021), Mark Brown (2022), Doug Harr (2023) and Paul Hertzell (secretary, appointed by the committee). Lee Schoenewe was nominated by the committee and subsequently appointed by the Board of Directors to fill a regular term beginning in 2019 and replacing Ann Johnson whose term expired at the end of the year.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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*Mountain Bluebird, Waterman Creek, O'Brien, 15 February 2018. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.*



## Book Review

by Rick Hollis

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*A Season on the Wind: Inside the World of Spring Migration* by Kenn Kaufman. 2019. 288 pp. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, ISBN 978-1-328-56642-3, \$26.00 (hard cover).

“Last night they were on the move” are the first words of this book in the “Prologue: Pilgrims at the Gates of Sunrise”. I cannot think of a finer way to start a book on migration. Kenn Kaufman knows his way around our language. Many bird books are written either formally or loosely. This book is neither; it is well written and a delight to read.

About halfway through the book, Kaufman closes the chapter “Sifting the Mysterious Sky” with the following paragraph:



But at some level I rebel against the science, too. At some level I would trade it all for the chance to become one of these migrants for just one night. I would give away all the knowledge in exchange for the feeling—to be a bird, flinging myself into the night sky with nothing but the simple faith of instinct, flying wildly into the unknown.

Have you never felt like that? I know I have.

Kaufman touches on the science that explains migration and the book is filled with things you may not know, but it is also about people and places. It is also part autobiography.

Kaufman is a migration buff and after moving to Arizona he realized he missed the big waves of spring migration he experienced while living in Ohio. The battle against a wind farm at nearby Camp Perry spills into a number of chapters. The book ends without a final decision on the wind farms. In his discussion about the right energy source in the wrong place, Kaufman raises many of the points that we face in current conservation battles. He stresses that what is important to us is not necessarily important to others in our community and is definitely not important to the businesses behind many proposals. Other chapters are more specific. “This Slice of Sky” deals with the classic notion of migration flyways and how recent research challenges this model.

A good bit of the book is about the Biggest Week in American Birding and the Magee Marsh boardwalk. How did the boardwalk come to be built? How did the Biggest Week come about? Why is it a ten-day festival when many

others are two or four days? You will find the answers to these and many more questions. The chapter “Boardwalk People” describes the people who use the boardwalk—how varied they are, how they help each other, and how packed the boardwalk is with people for a couple of weeks a year. “The First Big Wave” concerns our impatience for the right weather during migration. When will we get the right weather and when will the first big wave hit?

One thing that puzzled me is Kaufman’s use of lower case for species names: blue jay or black-throated green warbler. I glanced at Kaufman’s *Field Guide to Advanced Birding: Understanding What You See and Hear*, also published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH). *Advanced Birding* uses the standard ornithological literature convention of capitalizing bird names. Mysteries always puzzle me so I contacted Lisa White, the senior editor for both of these books. She told me that HMH uses title case of species names in field guides but prefers lower case in narrative, depending on author’s preference. Kaufman had a “strong preference for lowercasing species names in *Season*.”

Towards the end of the book Kaufman says, “On days like this I want to grab complete strangers—gently—and beg them to look, just look, at this vast parade of tiny travelers ushering in the wonders of springtime.” Don’t you feel like that during migration? The birds are so marvelous; it is so much fun. Surely everyone would love to go out at dawn. Maybe not dawn, but nature is so wondrous that everyone should enjoy it.

I have never been to northwestern Ohio in the spring; in fact, I have never been to a big birding event. But after Kaufman’s description of the Biggest Week in American Birding I want to go there. Read Kaufman’s book and you will too. It is a wonderful book.

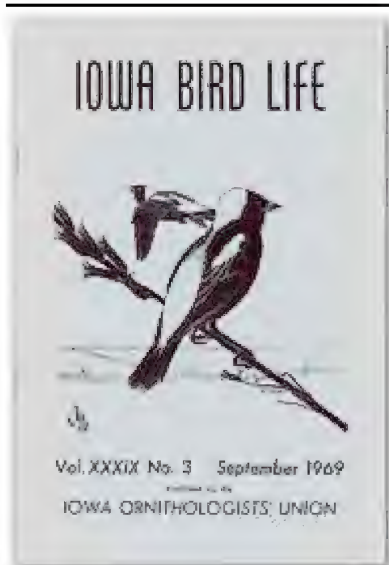
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Great Horned Owlets, Portland, Cerro Gordo, 8 April 2019. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.

## Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore



The lead article in the September 1969 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* is by Mrs. Darrell Hanna of Sioux City describing her views on the use of DDT and the deleterious effects that it was having on a number of bird species. Fortunately, the use of DDT was banned in the United States and some of those species, especially Bald Eagle and Osprey, have had dramatic recoveries in recent decades. She also described programs to spray for control of Dutch Elm disease. Sadly, those efforts failed and a dominant shade tree of the Midwest disappeared.

Stephen Patterson presented the results of his study of the use of nest boxes by Eastern Bluebirds and House Wrens. Although the bluebirds and wrens had modest nesting success, House Sparrows were the main occupants of the nest boxes, and the author removed hundreds of sparrow nests and eggs from them.

The fall meeting of the IOU was held at Shenandoah with 101 people attending. Field trips went to Waubesa State Park and Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. In all, 108 species were seen with most of them found in Missouri.

The field reports indicated that it apparently had been a poor summer for birding in Iowa with many saying they saw few birds. It is hard to imagine a summer at Red Rock and only seeing three Turkey Vultures. Some of the better finds were two Cattle Egrets near Ruthven (Iowa's first record had been only a few years earlier), both Piping Plovers and Least Terns nesting at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, Say's Phoebe nesting in northwestern Iowa, and several reports of Lark Buntings.

One of the short notes described one of Iowa's first Western Tanagers at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. The book reviews included the classic *Peregrine Falcon Populations* by Joseph Hickey which summarized a 1965 conference that documented the crash of Peregrine Falcon populations and the role of pesticides in that event. One of that book's chapters described what were probably Iowa's last Peregrine Falcon nests in the 1950s.

One of the short notes described one of Iowa's first Western Tanagers at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. The book reviews included the classic *Peregrine Falcon Populations* by Joseph Hickey which summarized a 1965 conference that documented the crash of Peregrine Falcon populations and the role of pesticides in that event. One of that book's chapters described what were probably Iowa's last Peregrine Falcon nests in the 1950s.

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**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES** (renewable yearly):

Fledgling (students) \$20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) \$30, Institutional (foreign) \$45, Goldfinch \$25 (electronic only), Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <[www.iowabirds.org](http://www.iowabirds.org)>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct, Johnston, IA 50131 ([cecillethompson@gmail.com](mailto:cecillethompson@gmail.com)).

**INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:**

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at [vistesparrow@gmail.com](mailto:vistesparrow@gmail.com). Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

**PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS:**

Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (\*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Members may upload their photos using the upload tool, Upload IBL Photos, after logging in. If you have trouble with Internet connectivity preventing using the tool, email to the editor. Submit graphs or maps as email attachments to your manuscript to the editor.

Deadlines for submission are 1 January for winter issue (Vol. xx[1]), 1 April for spring issue [2], 1 July for summer issue [3], 1 October for fall issue [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

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**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT:** Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 ([cjcaster@q.com](mailto:cjcaster@q.com)).

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**FRONT COVER PHOTO:** Chestnut-sided Warbler, Sugar Bottom RA, *Johnson*, 10 May 2019. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.

**BACK COVER PHOTO:** Palm Warbler, Brown's Lake, *Woodbury*, 29 April 2019. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

**LAYOUT:** Doreen Van Ryswyk, Mitchellville, IA.

**GRAPHICS:** Paul Hertz, Mason City, IA.

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# **IOWA BIRD LIFE**

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## **IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**



**Fall 2019 • Volume 89 • Number 4**



## IOWA BIRD LIFE

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*The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.*

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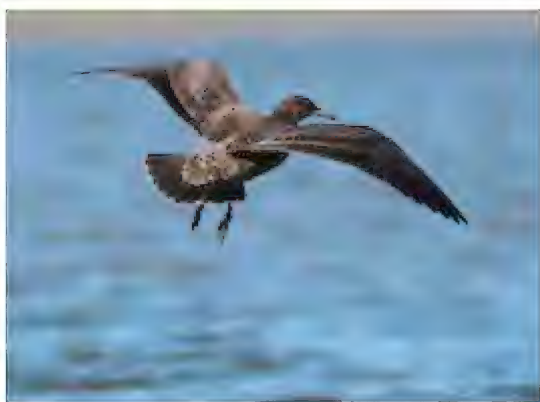
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# First Iowa Record of Heermann's Gull

*Aaron Brees*

On the evening of 28 July 2019, I visited the Big Creek spillway access located at the end of West Jester Park Drive on the west side of Polk City in Polk County. This access provides views of the large mudflat complex that is seasonally present at the upper end of Saylorville Reservoir. During late July, this location had been attracting a wide variety of waterbirds including shorebirds, gulls, terns, and pelicans. After arriving and parking at an elevated spot along the entrance road, I spent nearly an hour scoping the shorebird flocks, which were quite distant and required considerable time to accurately



*Figure 1. Heermann's Gull, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 29 July 2019. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*

identify. The initial highlight of the evening was a flock of five Red Knots. I reported the knots to other birders via text message and John Bissell then passed the report on to the IA-Bird listserve.

A little after 7:00 p.m., I finished scoping the flats and began to drive down to the parking lot at the end of the road. At that point I saw an extremely dark, gull-like

bird land on the tip of the point where the Big Creek spillway outflow channel joins the main body of Saylorville Reservoir. A family was fishing near the point and the bird walked right up to the young boy in the group. After watching for a moment, it became clear that the boy was tossing worms toward the bird and it was eating them. At that point I was still too far away to identify the bird, but my initial impression was that it looked like a dark morph jaeger of some kind. I quickly parked and walked out toward the point. By that time, the boy had stopped feeding the bird and it had started foraging on foot along the lake shoreline. I viewed it with my binoculars at close range and could now see that it was a gull, but not one of the more expected species. The bird's plumage was a dark, chocolate brown color with pale fringes on the mantle, flanks, scapulars, tertials, upper tail coverts, under tail coverts, and wing coverts (Figure 1). The folded primaries were a darker brown or black. The bill was notably long and a pale reddish color, with an ill-defined dark tip that extended back along the lower mandible. The legs were entirely black and the eyes were dark. Based on the overall structure of the bird, the dark plumage, and the long bill becoming

pale with a black tip, my best guess was an extremely freshly plumaged juvenile California Gull. The bird was darker than any California Gull I had ever seen, but given that it was July when juvenal plumage would still be unworn, that seemed to make some sense. I walked down the shore ahead of the bird, then sat down and waited as it foraged in my direction. The bird eventually walked right past me at a distance of less than 20 feet. Still not certain of the identification, I took more than 300 photos. After the bird passed by, I returned to the parking lot where Ryan Thompson had just arrived to look for the Red Knots. We briefly discussed where on the flats the knots were located and then I mentioned there was a very dark juvenile California Gull on the lakeshore. As we looked in the direction I had last seen the bird, we observed it fly up the shore and land back at the point. At that time, Ryan went to look for the knots, and I posted a message to the IA-Bird listserv about the gull before leaving.

Later, at home, I couldn't shake the feeling that the bird was odd and atypical for a California Gull, so I reviewed my photos and began considering other options. I sent photos to a few local birders and eventually raised the possibility that it could be a juvenile Heermann's Gull. Knowing that a Heermann's would be a first state record, I emailed photos to friends in California who know the species well, and posted a photo to the Facebook North American Gulls group where the identification was quickly confirmed. In hindsight, the identification seems obvious, as even juvenile Heermann's Gulls are quite distinctive. One key to finding rarities is being aware of the possibilities, and I generally try to have an idea of what vagrant species might be possible for the date and location whenever I am birding so that I am prepared to recognize something unusual. I can honestly say that, while Heermann's Gull is a species that has always been on the radar as a highly unlikely, but possible, vagrant to Iowa, that it might occur in the form of a juvenile in July was not anything I had remotely considered. The American Birding Association (ABA) Blog called the Iowa bird "...about as weird a record of an ABA Area breeder as you can get." Unlike several other vagrant Heermann's Gulls which have stayed around for days, months, or even years, the Saylorville bird was known to be present only from the evening of its discovery through the following evening of 29 July 2019. Fortunately, many birders were able to view the bird during its brief stay.

Heermann's Gull is primarily a bird of marine environments of the Pacific Coast and the Gulf of California. As much as 95% of the population nests on Isla Rasa in the Gulf of California, with a handful of smaller colonies on other islands in the Gulf of California and along the Pacific Coast of Mexico. At Isla Rasa, most eggs hatch in late May through early June, and young fledge approximately 45 days later (Islam 2002). Based on this phenology, the Iowa bird arrived about as early in the year as a juvenile bird could possibly

occur, and its very young age was apparent by the pale feather edges which quickly disappear through wear, often by early August. Following breeding, Heermann's Gulls migrate northwest to winter on the Pacific Ocean, with at least some annually making it as far north as southern British Columbia (Islam 2002). This northward dispersal results in small numbers of birds straying to interior California, more rarely to southern Arizona, and very rarely to southern New Mexico where it is a review list species (Islam 2002, New Mexico Bird Records Committee). On even rarer occasions, Heermann's Gulls have strayed farther north to Utah (3 accepted records; Utah Bird Records Committee) and east to Texas (4 accepted records, 1 present at the time of writing; Carpenter 2016, eBird 2019). A handful of records, including the Iowa bird, represent much greater outliers and are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Locations and dates of outlying Heermann's Gull sightings.

Location	Date	Reference
Keystone Reservoir, Oklahoma	25 August 1979 – 8 March 1980*	Tomer (1981)
Lake St. Clair, Detroit, Michigan and Lake Erie, Lorain, Ohio	27 August 1979 – 1 November 1981	Tessen, (1979), Kleen (1980), Tes- sen (1982)
Soda Lake, Wyoming	26 September 1984	Kingery (1985), Findholt (1994)
Lake Ontario, Toronto area, Ontario	14 November 1999 – 16 September 2000	Yukich (2000)
Craney Island, Norfolk, Virginia	30-31 August 2002	Clark (2003)
Gulf Coast, Florida--Fort De Soto to St. George Island	24 October 2000 – 9 June 2005	Pranty (2001), Pranty (2006)
Snake River below American Falls Dam, Idaho	7 November 2008	Idaho Bird Records Committee
Fort Supply Reservoir, Oklahoma	9-11 May 2014	Grzybowski and Silcock (2015)
Saylorville Reservoir, Iowa	28-29 July 2019	
Atlantic Coast, Florida--Port Ca- naveral to Key Biscayne	31 August 2019 – present as of writing	eBird (2019)

\*date collected

Heermann's Gull represents the twenty-first gull species recorded in Iowa, leaving Kelp Gull or Western Gull as the most likely next gull addition to the state list.



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## Summer Red Crossbills in Iowa

Dan L. Reinking

On 20 July 2019 while visiting relatives in Orange City, Sioux County, Iowa, I observed a Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) on a sunflower seed bird feeder. Additional observations yielded up to 12 Red Crossbills seen at once and photographed (Figures 1–2). Only one had extensively reddish plumage



Figure 1. Red Crossbill on a sunflower seed feeder in Orange City, Sioux, 20 July 2019. Photograph by Dan L. Reinking, Bartlesville, OK.

indicative of adult males, and at least three were heavily streaked juveniles. After my departure, crossbills continued to be seen in smaller numbers at this feeder through 27 July. The location encompassed a residential neighborhood with a large, open lawn and several large blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) trees laden with cones about 50 meters to the north of the bird feeder. The crossbills would at times fly between the spruce trees and the bird feeder, but were frequently not present at various times throughout the day and were presumably also occupying additional nearby but undetermined locations.

I was not able to establish crossbill type identification by vocalizations. Based on the large bill size of the crossbills, the rela-

tive proximity (about 600 km) to Rocky Mountain foothill breeding locations in western South Dakota and eastern Colorado, and the propensity for Type 2 crossbills to occur in the Midwest and Plains states, I speculate that they may have been Type 2 (ponderosa pine) crossbills (Benkman 2007).

Red Crossbills breed primarily in the northeastern U.S. and southeastern Canada, in southwestern Canada north and west to Alaska, and in western mountain ranges and foothills south from western Canada into Mexico. Red Crossbills can nest in any month, and are prone to wander well outside of their normal ranges in response to crop failures in their preferred conifer trees (Benkman and Young 2019).

No breeding season records are listed in the first Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas (Jackson et al. 1996). The second Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas lists no confirmed nesting records, but includes a pair observed in Johnson County



*Figure 2. Red Crossbills below a sunflower seed feeder in Orange City, Sioux, 20 July 2019. Photograph by Dan L. Reinking, Bartlesville, OK.*

in June 2008, an observation in Jasper County in July 2008, an observation in Hamilton County in July 2012, as well as an August observation in Webster County in 2012 (<http://bba.iowabirds.org/SpeciesAccounts.aspx>). A search of ebird.org records for June and July observations of Red Crossbills in Iowa from 1900 to 2019 yielded one photographically documented record in Woodbury County on 11 July 2018, and one undocumented record from Linn County on 12 July 2008. Published reports of June or July observations from Cherokee, Jasper, and Worth counties were reported in 2008 (Dinsmore 2008). Summer sightings at feeders were next reported in June or July in 2012 from Cerro Gordo, Humboldt, O'Brien, Webster, and Woodbury counties (Dinsmore 2012). The next published account was a June report from Cherokee County in 2013 (Dinsmore 2013). Three were in Cherokee County until 3 June 2016 (Dinsmore 2016), and one was in Woodbury County in June 2018 (Dinsmore 2018). The Sioux County observation reported here was not the only summer record in 2019. June or July reports also came from Clay, Pottawattamie, and Story counties (Dinsmore 2019).

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American Robin, Jester Park, Polk , 12 June 2019. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.



Indigo Bunting, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson, 20 July 2019. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.



## Book Review

Rick Hollis

*The Ascent of Birds: How Modern Science Is Revealing Their Story* by John Reilly. 2019. Exeter, UK. 340 pages, 36 b/w figures, 37 color plates, 1 table, ISBN 978-1-78427-203-6, \$23.65 (soft cover).



This book is a wonderful attempt to apply the most recent scientific knowledge to our understanding of avian evolution. It took me some time to appreciate. At first glance many may assume this book is too advanced, too dense to be of any use. Do not let yourself make this mistake. I believe that many birders will benefit from reading this book, though it is not a book that always reads well. The material covers a lot of ground. Get a copy. Read a few chapters. Set it aside for a while. Start reading again.

My training many years ago was in evolutionary biology, but science has changed so much. The understanding of the relationships of bird groups to each other has advanced significantly. In the introduction, Reilly points out that according to the International Ornithologists'

Union, there are 40 orders of birds, containing 238 families, 2297 genera, and 10,694 species. How did we get here from the dinosaurs? How did we get all these species? Reilly's book attempts to answer these questions by looking at the research. I found some of the science and evolutionary biology words to be obscure, even with my schooling, but the glossary is helpful.

Each of the 27 chapters contains nine to ten pages, numerous subheadings, and 20 or more notes in the appendix. Most notes are merely literature citations, but others contain additional information. "Chapter 15: The Manakin's Story: *Why So Many Suboscines?*" has more than 50 notes. Each of the chapters contains one or more stories of avian evolution. The sections go into how we learned what we now know. The last chapter, "The Tanager's Story: *the Final Flourish*", includes a nice summary of Peter and Rosemary Grant's work with Darwin's finches and information on flowerpiercers.



Here are two examples of chapter titles, subheadings, and descriptions:

“Chapter 3: The Waterfowl’s Story: *Refugia, High Living, and Sex*” contains the following subheadings: “Adaptations for the high life”, “Contingency and protein evolution”, and “Loss of the avian penis”. Each is a detailed dip into part of avian evolution.

“Chapter 14: The New Zealand Wren’s Story: *a Novel Foot*” includes discussion of the passerine foot, passerine syringes (the plural of syrinx), the assistant lightkeeper’s cat Tibbles and her offspring, and other topics. Its subchapters include: “The emergence of passerines”, “Vicariance or disposal?”, and “Emergence of anisodactyly”.

Professionally, John Reilly was a British hematologist, with a long interest in birding. After his retirement he worked at birding, guiding, and writing. For this book, he tracked down papers and people who did primary research on birds.

I thoroughly enjoyed *The Ascent of Birds*. It is well written and informative. Much of what Reilly includes is newer information, updating and strengthening our present understanding of avian evolution and the relationships between groups of birds.

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Snow Geese, Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie, 29 July 2019. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

## Field Reports—Summer 2019

*James J. Dinsmore*



*James J. Dinsmore*

The extensive flooding made this a very different summer. Many areas were flooded for extended time periods and inaccessible to birders. Still it turned out to be a productive season with two Accidental and six Casual species being found including Heermann's Gull, a new species for Iowa.

### WEATHER

June weather was mild with both temperatures and rainfall close to long-term averages. Temperatures averaged 69.5°F, 0.2°F below normal and tying as the 66th coolest June in 147 years of records.

Above-average temperatures were recorded on five days early in June and again at the end of the month.

The rest of the month had mixed temperatures with several periods of cooler-than-average temperatures. July 29th was the hottest day with a statewide average of 93°F and the month's highest temperature of 99°F at Spencer. The coldest period was from 9 through 13 June which included the overall coldest day statewide on 12 June and the lowest temperature of 39°F on 13 June at Guttenberg.

June rainfall averaged 4.16 inches, 0.86 inches below average and the 63rd driest June on record. As is typical for June, a series of thunderstorms swept across Iowa, accompanied by strong winds in a number of cases. The most severe storms were in late June with one on 25 June in southern Iowa bringing hail to numerous locations including reports of 2-inch hailstones at Murray, one on 27 June in eastern Iowa dumping more than two inches of rain on 13 stations with 3.5 inches at New Hampton the most, and another strong storm that moved into east-central and southern Iowa the next day.

July temperatures averaged 75.1°F, 1.5°F above normal and tied for the 51st warmest July on record. It was the warmest July since 2012. Temperatures were above average for the first few days of July and especially in mid-July with many days with highs in the 90s. The month's highest reading was 99°F on 19 July at Little Sioux in Harrison County. The lowest temperature was 48°F on 31 July at Cresco in Howard County.

July rainfall averaged 3.35 inches, 1.15 inches below normal and almost exactly the same as the average for July 2018. It was the 63rd driest July in 147 years of records. Rock Rapids in Lyon County had the most precipitation (8.17 inches) and Fort Madison in Lee County the least (0.55 inches). This is the opposite of the normal pattern of precipitation in Iowa.

As during June, a series of thunderstorms moved across the state, some with strong winds and a few with hail. The only tornado reported was a weak

one on 3 July in Scott County. The greatest rainfall reported was 3.62 inches at Orange City in Sioux County on 1 July. Starting in mid-July, drought conditions were designated for eleven counties in eastern Iowa, eight in southwestern Iowa, and nine in central Iowa. By the end of July, drought conditions covered 23% of Iowa, the same as at this time in 2018.

## BIRDS OF SUMMER

### **Habitat conditions**

The rather average weather conditions that Iowa experienced during June normally would suggest that habitat conditions should be fairly good for Iowa's birds during the nesting season. However, this was not a typical year, mainly because of events that occurred during spring. A fairly rapid melt-off of the snow cover, in some cases accompanied by heavy rain, led to rapid runoff into the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and their tributaries. The rivers rapidly reached flood stage and spilled over onto their floodplains in March. Continued fairly heavy rains only expanded and prolonged the flooding and by mid-May, record or near record flooding was being reported along both rivers. On the Missouri, several upstream dams had held back the original flooding but eventually that water had to be released, continuing the downstream misery.

Overall, huge areas in the floodplains of both basins were flooded, leaving rural areas devastated with many fields still flooded in June and July. Thousands of acres of land that normally would provide nesting habitat for birds were unavailable this year. By the end of July both rivers were close to returning to their normal pathways but left behind were croplands covered with massive amounts of mud and sand, huge piles of debris, and vast areas still covered with floodwater.

An example of how this flooding affected birds was the absence of nesting American White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, and Great Egrets on the Clinton spoil islands. Those species have nested there yearly since 2007 but this year high water submerged the islands in March, and when the water finally receded enough for the islands to reemerge in mid-June, many birds were in the area but no nesting activity was noted (*fide* Kelly McKay). Undoubtedly, many other flooded areas were similarly affected.

### **Breeding species**

Reports of nesting included Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Black Tern, and Double-crested Cormorant in southwestern Iowa, and possible nesting by Merlin and Alder Flycatcher. With all of the available water habitat, this year seemingly would have been a good year for wading birds like Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, or perhaps White-faced Ibis to nest in Iowa but so far as is known, none did.

### **Migrants**

Iowa had more late spring migrant birds this summer than most summers.

Besides the usual late migrant shorebirds and terns that occur every summer, at least four species of flycatchers, one vireo, one thrush, and six warblers were found in Iowa in early June this summer, the most I can recall. Alder Flycatchers especially seemed to be everywhere in early June with at least 30 reports and other species likewise were well represented. Record late dates were reported for at least three species.

The appearance of single Western Grebes in *Johnson*, *Black Hawk*, and *Story* on 3 June was an unprecedented event for a species that should be on its breeding grounds at that time. Among southbound birds, several shorebird species arrived on time in early July although their numbers were not especially high. Probably the first southbound arrival was a Willet on 24 June but even more spectacular was the arrival of seven Red Knots on 27 July and five of them remaining for several days. This species typically bypasses Iowa on its southbound migration, and this was only the second summer record for Iowa. A Least Flycatcher 31 July at Saylorville was an early southbound bird.

### **Range changes**

Blue Grosbeaks continued to appear in central, north-central, and east-central Iowa as they seemingly consolidate their presence in those areas. I received fewer reports of Western Kingbird than in recent years but the species seems to be solidly established in Polk County with additional reports from several nearby areas. With reports from border to border, it is clear that the distribution of both meadowlark species has changed from their more segregated ranges of a few decades ago.

For the third year in the past four summers, Red Crossbills were found in Iowa. This year they were found at three places in June and July continuing the nomadic pattern of this species. No one obtained recordings of its call notes, a diagnostic feature for this species complex, but most likely they were from one of the populations that nests west of Iowa.

### **Unusual species**

This was a very good summer for unusual species being found. A total of six Casual (Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Red Knot, California Gull, Glossy Ibis, Prairie Warbler, Painted Bunting) and two Accidental (Whooping Crane, Heermann's Gull) species were seen this summer. This total ties 2006 when a similar number of species of those two categories were found and is almost twice the yearly average of 1.6 Accidental and 3.1 Casual species found during summer over the past 15 years. Other unusual species found include Ruffed Grouse, White-winged Dove, Ruddy Turnstone, Neotropic Cormorant, Merlin, Red Crossbill, and Palm Warbler. The Heermann's Gull is a new species for the Iowa list and raises the state total to 430 species.

### **SPECIES DATA**

All CAPS = Accidental or Casual species, \* = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbrevi-

ations used: **ad** = adult, **A** = area, **Croton** = Croton Unit, Shimek State Forest (ditto Donnellson, Farmington, and Lick Creek units), **juv** = juvenile, **L** = lake, **Lucas** = Lucas Unit, Stephens State Forest, **M** = marsh, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NM** = national monument, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **Nat Pre** = nature preserve, **P** = park, **ph** = photo, **R** = river, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **Sl** = slough, **SF** = state forest, **SP** = state park, **SPre** = state preserve, **WA** = wildlife area, **WPA** = Waterfowl Production Area, **yg** = young.

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:** Reported from three locations starting with one 27 Jun in nw *Mills* s of hwy 370 (Tom Green-ph, *fide* Jeff Green and Jerry Toll), one 13 Jul at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (Jason Olsen-ph), 3 there 14 Jul (WRS) and seen by many with as many as 11 on 28 Jul (Loren Padelford) and 8 still there 31 Jul (PDBS). The third was one 23 Jul at Cedar L *Linn* (BT-ph) and seen repeatedly through 31 Jul (BCC-ph, JF, eBird, m.ob.).



Snow Geese, Woodbury, 8 June 2019. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

**Snow Goose:** All: one 2 Jun at Pine Lake SP *Hardin* (Ben Marske), one 5 Jun near Castana *Monona* (AB), 5 on 8 Jun at New L *Woodbury* (POR), 2 on 22, 26 Jun, 6 Jul in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (Garvin Filbert), 4 on 15 Jul in *Fremont* (SM), and numerous reports from 7 Jun to 31 Jul at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (eBird, m.ob.) with 11 there 7 Jun (DTa) and 19 there 20 Jul (Chris Alred).

**Ross's Goose:** All: an injured ad 1–16 Jun at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (SJD) and one 21 Jun at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (DTa, Carla Bregman).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** All: singles 1 Jun at Lower Morse L WPA *Wright* (SJD) and 1 Jun near Elm L *Wright* (SJD).

**Mute Swan:** All: one 2, 4 Jun near Rock Creek SP *Jasper* (Ken Saunders, RIA, PHA) and 2 on 6 Jun at Independence *Buchanan* (WV).



Trumpeter Swans, Snake Creek Marsh, Greene, 9 June 2019. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

**Trumpeter Swan:** In 2019, 152 young fledged from 55 nests, mostly in the northern half of Iowa. Reports came from 30 counties, mostly in the northern half of Iowa (eBird) where a breeding population is established. Iowa began its restoration program in 1994 and since then, nearly 1200 Trumpeter Swans have been released. In recent years, these efforts have been concentrated in southern



Iowa with 19 birds released there in 2019 (IaDNR).

**Northern Shoveler:** All: one 2 Jun at Harrier M *Boone* (EEO), one 4 Jun in the Crocker area *Polk* (AB), one 14 Jun at Grundy County L *Grundy* (DGE), 14 on 26 Jun at Maynard Reese WPA *Kossuth* (DAS), one 29 Jun near Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV), a brood 10 Jul at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* (MP), 6 on 24 Jul at Union Hills WPA *Cerro Gordo* (JK, MH), and one 28 Jul at Jester P *Polk* (WO).

**Gadwall:** All: 2 on 1 Jun and one 15 Jun at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD), one 3 Jun at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (MRa), 2 on 4 Jun at McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* (MH), 2 on 5 Jun at Gilmore City wetland *Pocahontas* (SJD), 2 on 7 Jun at Riverton WA *Fremont* (DTa), 11 on 26 Jun at Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* (DAS), 5 on 20 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT), and 8 on 26 Jul in *Clay* (MHa).

**American Wigeon:** All: 3 on 10 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS) and one male 12 Jun at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (SJD).

**Green-winged Teal:** All: singles all 1 Jun near Lake Park *Dickinson* (JDJ), near Elm L *Wright* (SJD), and at Lower Morse Lake WPA *Wright* (SJD), 3 males 1 Jun and 2 males and a female 6 Jul at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD), 2 females 10 Jun and one 13 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS, JDJ), and one 29 Jun near Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV).

**Canvasback:** All: a pair 6 Jun near Milford *Dickinson* (NPB), one 12 Jun at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (JF), and 2 on 21 Jun near Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV).

**Redhead:** All: one 3 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC, JF), a brood 5 Jun at Meinking M *Dickinson* (SJD), 2 on 22 Jun at Pickerel L *Buena Vista* (JDJ), 29 (11 pairs and 7 singles) 10 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS), 16 on 26 Jun at Maynard Reese WPA *Kossuth* (DAS), a brood 13 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS), 16 on 13 Jul at Dewey's Pasture *Clay* (JDJ), and 2 females and a brood 21 Jul near Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV).

**Ring-necked Duck:** All: singles 6 Jun at Sandy Hollow RA *Sioux* (Kendall VanZanten), one male 10 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS), and 7 Jul at Bays Branch *Guthrie* (AB).

**Lesser Scaup:** One or 2 were found from 1 Jun–6 Jul in *Clay*, *Greene*, *Hamilton*, *Kossuth*, *Palo Alto*, *Pottawattamie*, and *Wright* (SJD, LAS, MRa, DAS, DTa). Most: 7 on 1 Jun at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD).

**Bufflehead:** All: one 10 Jun near Armstrong *Kossuth* (Julie Johnston).

**Hooded Merganser:** Broods were noted in *Clay* (LAS), *Clinton* (KJM), *Dickinson* (LAS), *Jackson* (TM, KMc), *Scott* (KJM), *Story* (HZ), *Winnebago* (DAS, BCC), *Winneshiek* (DAS), and *Woodbury* (GLV).

**Common Merganser:** Two reports: one 13 Jun near Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (JK, MH) and one 19 Jun at Rock Creek P *Clinton* (\*KJM-ph).

**Ruddy Duck:** From 1–6 were found in 13 counties including a brood 23 Jul in *Humboldt* (MP, eBird, m.ob.). The most were 15 at Hendrickson M *Story* (DyO). One 31 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (SJD) was

an early migrant.

**Northern Bobwhite:** Reported from 28 counties, mostly in the southern half of Iowa but north to *Woodbury* (eBird, m.ob.).

**Gray Partridge:** Reports, mostly of one or 2 birds, came from *Black Hawk, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Delaware, Dubuque, Emmet, Hamilton, Hancock, Iowa, Linn, Palo Alto, Polk, Story, and Wright* (eBird, m.ob.). The southernmost reports were from *Iowa* and *Polk* with 9 on 27 Jun near *Amana Iowa* (TM) the most.

**Ruffed Grouse:** All: one 9 Jun at Little Paint Creek, Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (Austin Lambert).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Reports, mostly of one or 2 birds, came from 33 counties, mostly in the northern half of Iowa but south to *Louisa* and *Fremont* (eBird, m.ob.).

**Red-necked Grebe:** Reports from five sites: 2 pairs 1–15 Jun (SJD) at Big Wall L *Wright*; one bird 3 Jun (JF, BCC) at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn*; one bird 1 Jun and 3 on 5 Jun (JDJ, LAS, SJD), a nest with eggs and a second pair with 3 yg 7 Jul (LAS), and 5 ads and 4 yg on 27 Jul (JDJ, LAS) at Grover's L *Dickinson*; 2 ad and a nest 5 Jun (SJD), a pair 10 Jun (LAS), 3 birds 24 Jun (JLF), and a pair with one yg 10, 13 Jul (MP, LAS, JDJ) at Trumbull L *Clay*; and a pair with a chick 3 Jul (Tom Skilling *fide* SJD) at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth*.

**Eared Grebe:** All: 2 on 24 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (JLF).

**Western Grebe:** An apparent fallout occurred in early June with singles 3 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* and perhaps the same bird the

next day at *Amana Lily L Iowa* (JF, BCC, MHB, JMc, m.ob.), 3 Jun at George Wyth SP, *Black Hawk* (TGS), and near Ames *Story* 3–15 Jun (EEO, HZ, Tyler Grant, SJD, m.ob.). Others were a pair 10 Jun, 13 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS, JDJ) and 3 on 24 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (JLF).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Single reports from *Allamakee, Clayton, and Winneshiek* in northeastern Iowa where this species is least common (eBird).

**White-winged Dove:** All: one 24 Jun near Dunbar SI *Greene* (Kyla Yuza-Pate-details, MDS) and one 14, 17 Jul in Lytton *Sac* (Wendy Coffin Miller-ph *fide* Carl Bendorf, CW-ph)

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Mostly one or 2 were found in 66 counties throughout the state (eBird, m.ob.).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** More reports than most recent years. Nearly all singles in 26 counties scattered across the state (eBird, m.ob.).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** All reports came from the Lucas Unit *Lucas* (eBird) with 4 on 6 Jun the most (DTh).

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** Reported from *Appanoose, Fremont, Hancock, Johnson, Lee, Lucas, Monona, and Woodbury* (eBird, m.ob.) with 4 each at Croton Unit *Lee* (Jayden Boyden) and Lucas Unit *Lucas* (RJT, Tom Dougherty) the most.

**Chimney Swift:** Most: 63 on 24 Jun at two sites in Sioux City *Woodbury* (AR) and 34 on 15 Jun at Iowa State University, *Story* (DAK).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Reports, mostly of one or 2, came from 59 counties from throughout Iowa (eBird, m.ob.).

**Virginia Rail:** Reports, mostly of one or 2 birds, came from seven counties, all in the Prairie Pothole Region of Iowa (eBird, m.ob.).

**Sora:** Reports, mostly of one or 2 birds, came from 11 counties, all in the northern half of Iowa (eBird, m.ob.).

**Common Gallinule:** Reports, mostly of one or 2 birds, came from seven counties in north-central Iowa and east to *Jackson* and *Louisa* (eBird, m.ob.). A brood was seen 25 Jun at Big Wall L *Wright* (RGo).

**American Coot:** Generally a fairly poor year for coots with most sites reporting fewer than usual. The 35 on 13 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (JDJ) were the most. Somewhat unexpected were one or two broods 23 Jul in *Humboldt* (MP) and 8 birds 28 Jun at the Farmington Unit *Lee* (EW, JNw).

**Sandhill Crane:** I received reports from 18 counties. Evidence of nesting was mentioned only for *Cerro Gordo*, *Kossuth*, *Linn*, *Story*, and *Worth* (eBird, m.ob.). The report of a colt at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (*fide* Matt Kenne) seems to be the first report of nesting for that county. Nesting has now been reported from 38 Iowa counties. Most: 18 on 17 Jun at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF) and 12 on 4 Jul at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM).

**WHOOPING CRANE:** One found 9 Jun near Swea City *Kossuth* (Mrs. Larry Eichenberger-ph, *fide* T. J. Herrick), 9 Jul about 25 miles to the east near Rake *Winnebago* (Tom Skilling *fide* T. J. Herrick), and 15 Jul in the same general area (CJF-ph) was probably the same bird. Based on bands it was identified as hatched in 2017 in Wisconsin.

**American Avocet:** All: 2 on 12 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), one 15 Jul at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TGS), one 15 Jul near Hamburg *Fremont* (Matt Beisel), one 16 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), one 16, 26, 27 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD, RJT), one 27 Jul at MidAmerican Ponds *Pottawattamie* (RJT), and 6 on 22 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

**Black-bellied Plover:** All: one alternate 29 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (MP).

**American Golden-Plover:** All: 2 on 4 Jun near Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (CJF).

**Killdeer:** High counts: 133 on 29 Jul at Troy Mills sod farm *Linn* (BT) and 91 on 12 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (CW).

**Semipalmated Plover:** First: 2 on 5 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JMc). Most: 12 on 31 Jul at Terra P *Polk* (RLC) and 10 on 27 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MDR).

**Piping Plover:** All: one 27 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

**Upland Sandpiper:** Mostly singles were found in 30 counties throughout Iowa (eBird, m.ob.).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** All: one 22 Jul near Sandhill L *Woodbury* (GLV).

**Marbled Godwit:** All: 2 on 27 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF, TM).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** All: one alt ad 27 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) and one 27 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). This is the fifth summer in the last 10 that this species has been reported.

**RED KNOT:** All: 7 ads 27 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) and 5 still there 28, 29 Jul (\*AB, \*TMH,

m.ob.). These are Iowa's second summer record for this species. The only previous summer record was in July 1995.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** First: 3 on 17 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JMc) and one 18 Jul near Ames *Story* (SSP). Most: 228 on 28 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

**Sanderling:** All: one 21 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB) and 3 there 22 Jul (RJT), and one 29 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

**Dunlin:** All: one 4 Jun near Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (CJF).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Reports were one 23 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JF), one 27 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), one 28 Jul at Colo Bogs *Story* (TW), 5 on 28 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DAS), 2 on 28 Jul at Center Point Wetland *Linn* (RJT), and 3 on 31 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT).

**Least Sandpiper:** First: 2 on 4 Jul at Green Island *Jackson* (TM) and 3 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JMc) and 2 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT), both on 5 Jul. Most: 80 on 27 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MDR).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Last: 20 on 1 Jun in *Polk* (AB) and 2 on 12 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** All: 2 on 27 Jul at Blue Grass sod farm *Linn*, 3 on 28 Jul at Troy Mills sod farm *Linn* (RJT), one near Center Point *Linn* 29 Jul (JMc), and one 31 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** First: singles 10 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT) and 12 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JMc). Most: 340 on 28 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:**

First: 3 on 13 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, RLC). Most: 40 on 26 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT).

**Western Sandpiper:** All: one ad 28 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** First: 2 on 11 Jul at Union Hills WPA *Cerro Gordo* (RGo) and one 11 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). Most: 10 on 20 Jul at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* and 10 on 24 Jul at Union Hills WPA *Cerro Gordo* (both JK, MH).

**American Woodcock:** All: singles 2 Jun at Williams Prairie *Johnson* (CRE), 5 Jul at Gitchie Manitou SPre *Lyon* (Chris Anderson), 19 Jul at Effigy Mounds NM *Allamakee* (Kat Busse), and 24 Jul at Ledges SP *Boone* (Karl Jungbluth).

**Wilson's Snipe:** All: 3 on 5 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ), one 15 Jun at Goose Lake WA Clinton (EEO), and one 27 Jul at Spring Run WA *Dickinson* (MHa).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Mostly one or 2 in 28 counties scattered throughout Iowa (eBird, m.ob.).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** First: singles 6 Jul near Eastern Iowa Airport *Linn* (JF) and 10 Jul at Hollow Vista P *Scott* (Susa and Forrest Stonedahl). Most: 12 on 15 Jul at Green Island WA *Jackson* (Ethan Brown).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Last: singles 13 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF) and 15 Jun at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD). First: 3 on 5 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JMc) and one 7 Jul at Bays Branch *Guthrie* (AB). Most: 35 on 27 Jul at Little Swan L *Dickinson* (JDJ).

**Willet:** All: one 24 Jun at Spring Run WA *Dickinson* (LAS), 2 on 3

Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), one 15 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), and 2 on 26 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Last: one 13 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). First: one 1 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). One 26 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF) may have been summering. Most: 6 on 2 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** All: one 9 Jul at Colo Bogs *Story* (DyO), a male 13 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS), one 18 Jul near Ames *Story* (SSP), one 22 Jul at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* (RGo, CJF), one 23 Jul at Red Rock Res *Warren* (JG), and one 29 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BCC, CKr, et al.).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** All: 5 juv 30 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

**Black-headed x Ring-billed Gull hybrid:** Presumably the same bird that was seen in 2018, 2017, and 2014 was seen 5 Jun at the Dickinson County landfill *Dickinson* (SJD).

**Franklin's Gull:** The first flock was 40 on 6 Jul at Spring Run WA *Dickinson* (TW, DWa). By 27 Jul, 950 were at Little Swan L *Dickinson* (JDJ) and an amazing 8700 at near-by Dickinson County landfill *Dickinson* (JDJ). The latter seems to be the second greatest summer count for the species in Iowa. The only reports from eastern Iowa were one 11, 16 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

**HEERMANN'S GULL:** One juv at Saylorville Res *Polk* 28 Jul (\*AB-ph, RJT) was seen by many on 29 Jul (\*JB, \*TMH-ph, CJF-ph, \*AJ, \*RLC, \*Gerald White, \*CRE, \*RIA, \*CW, m.ob.) but not thereafter. Iowa's first report of this species,

it was an amazing find for a species generally confined to the West Coast of the United States and Mexico.

**Ring-billed Gull:** The colony at Meinking M *Dickinson* had 85 ads and 28 nests on 5 Jun (SJD). During June, small groups were seen at several sites throughout Iowa. By mid-July, groups of 25–50 were evident at many of those sites. Away from the breeding colony in *Dickinson*, the largest group was 200 on 28 Jul at Dubuque (Benjamin and Sam Ewing).

**CALIFORNIA GULL:** All: one basic ad 5 Jun at Dickinson County landfill *Dickinson* (SJD). Probably a continuing bird from spring (Langan 2019), this is the fourth summer record of this species for Iowa.

**Herring Gull:** All: one 19 Jun in *Clinton* (KMc), 2 juv 20 Jul at Nahant M *Scott* (KJM), and one juv 29 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (POR).

**Least Tern:** All: 2 on 25 Jun (JLF), one ad and 3 juv 24 Jul (DTh), and 6 on 27 Jul (DTh), all at Mid-American Ponds *Pottawattamie*.

**Caspian Tern:** About 11 reports, all of one or 2 birds. Reports included four from Hawkeye WA *Johnson*, three from Saylorville Res *Polk*, and one each from Red Rock Res *Mari-on*, Deere Dike *Dubuque*, near Earlham *Dallas*, and Spirit Lake *Dickinson* (eBird, m.ob.).

**Black Tern:** Late migrants included 21 on 2 Jun at Green Island WA *Jackson* (KJAB) and 24 on 5 Jun at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (AB). Evidence of nesting included adult behavior indicating chicks were nearby on 24 Jun at Eagle Flats WA *Hancock* (DAS) and three active nests with at least one chick 25 Jul at Myre Sl



*Winnebago* (DAS). On 13 Jun, 21 at Dan Green Sl *Clay* and 63 at Trumbull L *Clay* (JDJ) were probably southbound.

**Common Tern:** All: four alternate ads 5 Jun at Spirit L *Dickinson* (SJD) and one ad 24 Jul at Dubuque *Dubuque* (DAS details, TM).

**Forster's Tern:** Late northbound birds were 3 on 3 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (SD) and 3 on 5 Jun at Lake Mills *Worth* (Jim Hughes) but other than 2 on 27 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAS) and 10 there 10 Jul (MP) none were reported until 13 Jul when 2 probable southbound birds were at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). A flock of 22 on 26 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (WRS) and 141 on 27 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) were clearly southbound, the latter the largest such concentration I can recall for Iowa.

**Common Loon:** All: one 1 Jun at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (JMc), one 2 Jun at Sand L *Marshall* (MP), one 3 Jun at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (BCC), up to 3 from 1 Jun–6 Jul at L Cornelia *Wright* (SJD), one 11 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), one 16 Jun on Storm L *Buena Vista* (POR, Dana Siefer), and 2 on 16 Jun, 6 Jul at West Okoboji L *Dickinson* (NPB, TW, DWa).

**Neotropic Cormorant:** One subadult 1 Jun at Elm L *Wright* (\*SJD-ph).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Small groups (<10 and mostly singles) were seen throughout Iowa during June and the first half of July, especially along the Mississippi R and in north-central/northwestern Iowa (eBird). The largest groups were 261 on 19 Jun at Bulger's

Hollow RA *Clinton* (KJM), 145 on 2 Jun at Green Island WA *Jackson* (KJAB), and 134 on 15 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (WRS). The latter group included 21 nests, a number that increased to 27 nests on 26 Jul (WRS), the only report of nesting this summer.

**American White Pelican:** Pelicans were common throughout much of Iowa, with 105 on 1 Jun at Red Haw SP *Lucas* (Connor Langan), 80 on 10 Jun near Armstrong *Emmet* (Julie Johnston), and 75 on 25 Jun at Big Marsh WA *Butler* (DGE) all sites that typically don't have pelicans during June. By mid-July larger groups were arriving with 300 on 13 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BT), and 800 on 28 Jul (DAS). Numerous other reports of >100 birds were received including 850 on 15 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (WRS) and 427 on 19 Jun at Bulger's Hollow RA *Clinton* (KJM).

**American Bittern:** All: one 5 Jun at Meinking M *Dickinson* (SJD), 2 on 8 Jun at Bjorkboda M *Hamilton* (CW), one 1 Jul in *Hancock* (TMH), and one 21 Jul near Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV).

**Least Bittern:** Mostly one or 2 were found in 14 counties scattered around Iowa and south to Cone M *Louisa* and Riverton WA *Fremont* (eBird, m.ob.).

**Great Blue Heron:** Most: 52 on 19 Jun at Rock Creek P *Clinton* (KJM) and 42 on 26 Jun at Cone M *Louisa* (JMc).

**Great Egret:** Most: 204 on 19 Jun at Bulger's Hollow RA *Clinton* (KJM) and 157 on 27 Jul at Green Island *Jackson* (Jennifer Anderson-Cruz).

**Cattle Egret:** All: singles 15 Jul at M U Payne WA *Fremont* (SM), 21 Jul at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM), and 31 Jul near Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (RGo, CJF).

**Green Heron:** Reports, mostly of one or 2, came from 32 counties scattered throughout Iowa (eBird, m.ob.).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** All: singles on 6 Jun along the Mississippi R *Scott* (KJM), 13 Jul at Dan Green SI *Clay* (JDJ), 16 Jul at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM), 20 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), 27 Jul at Ames *Story* (AR), and 30 Jul near Hospers *Sioux* (JDJ), and 2 on 20 Jul at Nahant M *Scott* (KJM).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** All: one ad 5 Jul at Sedan WA *Appanoose* (Tom Johnson).

**GLOSSY IBIS:** All: one 8 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (\*JF-ph) is Iowa's second summer record.

**Turkey Vulture:** Widely reported throughout Iowa (eBird, m.ob.). High counts were 306 on 17 Jul at Rock Creek P *Clinton* (KJM) and 138 on 28 Jun on a communications tower in Wayland *Henry* (EW, JNw).

**Osprey:** Reported from 22 counties but only reports from *Dickinson* and *Pottawattamie* were west of *Dallas*. Evidence of nesting came from *Black Hawk*, *Buchanan*, *Jasper*, *Johnson*, *Linn*, and *Polk* (eBird, m.ob.). Only a nest at Independence *Buchanan* (WV) apparently was at a new site. Almost certainly other nests were not reported.

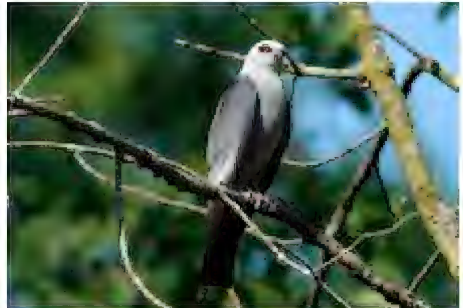
**Northern Harrier:** All: singles 1 Jun near Armstrong *Emmet* (Robert Russo), 4 Jun in the Crocker area *Polk* (AB), and 26 Jun at the Sioux City Prairie *Woodbury* (AR).

**Cooper's Hawk:** Reports, mostly of singles, came from 29 counties from throughout Iowa including *Lyon* and *Woodbury* in northwestern Iowa (eBird).



*Cooper's Hawk, Big Creek State Park, Polk, 23 June 2019. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

**Bald Eagle:** Reports, nearly all of one or 2 birds, came from 59 counties from throughout Iowa (eBird). This species is uncommon but occurs statewide, especially in northeastern Iowa.



*Mississippi Kite, Memorial Park, Wapello, 9 June 2019. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*

**Mississippi Kite:** One or 2 were seen throughout the period at their traditional sites at Memorial P, Ottumwa *Wapello* and in the Des Moines/West Des Moines area *Polk* (eBird, m.ob.). The most was 3 on 28 Jul at Terra P *Polk* (Scott Propsom).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Reports, mostly of singles, came from 11 counties, all in the eastern half of Iowa (eBird, m.ob.).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Reports, nearly all of singles, came from *Boone, Decatur, Dickinson, Jackson, Johnson, Lee, Louisa, Madison, Polk, Pottawattamie, Story, and Woodbury*, (eBird, CRE, MP).

**Barred Owl:** None were reported from the six northwestern-most counties where it is rare (eBird).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Common through most of Iowa, it is rare in northwestern Iowa with only single reports from *Cherokee, Plymouth, and Sioux*, and two from *Lyon* in the six northwestern-most counties (eBird).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** From 1–3 were found in *Lyon, Woodbury, Cherokee, and Emmet* in northwestern Iowa, *Allamakee, Winnebiek and Dubuque* in northeastern Iowa and south to Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (eBird), all expected locations. Singles in late July in *Johnson* (eBird) were unexpected.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Mostly singles were found in 31 counties east of a line from *Webster* to *Decatur* (eBird, m.ob.).

**Merlin:** Two groups found in July were suggestive of recent but unconfirmed nesting. Two on 11 Jul at the Dysart dump *Tama* and 4 there 13 Jul (Mary Ann Gregory), and 5 on 20 Jul in Waterloo *Black Hawk* near where a pair nested in 2016 (TSS) and an ad and juv 22 Jul in Waterloo *Black Hawk* (DGE) were suggestive of two family groups.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Reports were from *Dickinson, Dubuque, Jackson,*

*Johnson, Linn, and Polk* (eBird) but the only report providing evidence of nesting was of 2 ads and a juv in Cedar Rapids *Linn* 24 Jul (BCC). Almost certainly other pairs nested elsewhere in Iowa.

**Western Kingbird:** Multiple reports include the usual birds along Iowa's western border, singles east to near Bedford *Taylor* 4 Jun (DAK), in *Page* 15 Jun (KH), and in *Madison* 3 Jul (Doug Harr), and numerous reports from Ankeny, West Des Moines, and Des Moines in *Polk* (eBird, m.ob.).



*Eastern Wood-Pewee, Atherton Wetland, Johnson, 12 July 2019. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Late spring migrants included at least eight reports 1 or 2 June (eBird) with singles 4 Jun at Snyder Bend *Woodbury* (Bill Huser) and Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). One 19 Jun at Rock Creek P *Clinton* (\*KJM-ph) was a record late date.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** All: late migrants were singles 1 Jun at Grammer Grove P *Marshall* (MP), Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (TW, DWa), Kettleison Hogsback WA *Dickinson* (JDJ, LAS) and 2 at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (Seth Borowman).





*Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie, 29 July 2019. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*



*Snow Goose, Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie, 29 July 2019. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*



*Trumpeter Swans, Snake Creek Marsh, Greene, 9 June 2019. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Wood Duck, New Lake, Woodbury, 8 June 2019. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*



*Western Grebe, Story, 4 June 2019. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*



*Killdeer, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson, 20 July 2019. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Mississippi Kite, Memorial Park, Wapello, 9 June 2019. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Sedge Wren, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson, 2 June 2019. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Red Crossbills, Orange City, Sioux, 20 July 2019. Photograph by Dan L. Reinking, Bartlesville, OK.*



*Bobolink, Snake Creek Marsh, Greene, 9 June 2019. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*





*Orchard Oriole, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson, 2 June 2019. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Common Yellowthroat, Spark's Cemetery Area, Boone, 15 June 2019. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*American Redstart, Spark's Cemetery Area, Boone, 15 June 2019. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



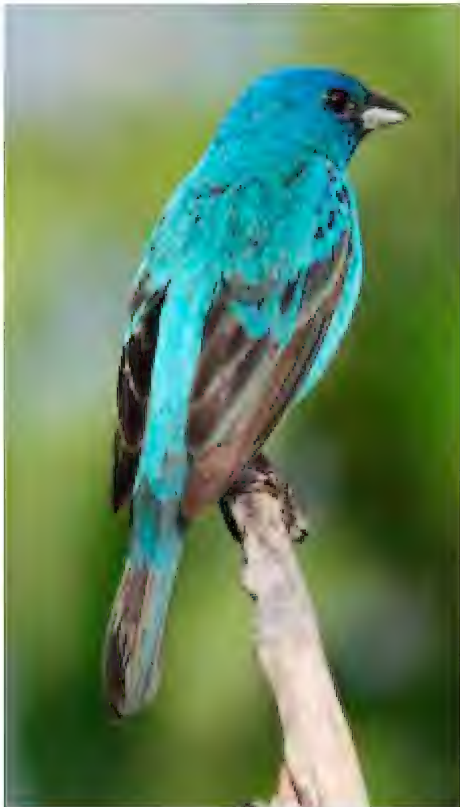
*American Redstart, Spark's Cemetery Area, Boone, 15 June 2019. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Yellow Warbler, Big Creek State Park, Polk, 1 June 2019. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*



*Prairie Warbler, Shimek State Forest—Croton Unit, Lee, 9 June 2019. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*



*Indigo Bunting, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson, 18 June 2019. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*



*Dickcissel, New Lake, Woodbury, 8 June 2019. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Mostly one or 2 were found in 29 counties east of a line from *Kossuth* to *Decatur* (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 6 on 30 Jun in Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (CHa).

**Alder Flycatcher:** I received at least 30 reports, mainly of singles, in early June (eBird). One 5 Jun at Freda Haffner Kettlehole SPre *Dickinson* (JAl) was the latest. Most: 4 on 1 Jun at Terra P *Polk* (KVS, SCS). One seen and heard 5, 18 Jun at Jennett A *Story* (Bruce Ehresman) acted territorial and might have been trying to nest.

**Willow Flycatcher:** Mostly one or 2 were found in 51 counties scattered throughout Iowa (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 8 on 7 Jun at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* (JMc), 18 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC), and 4 Jul at Floyd River WA *Sioux* (Steve Schmit).

**Least Flycatcher:** Several reports on 1 Jun and singles 2 Jun at Glidden *Carroll* and Lakeside Laboratory *Dickinson* (Victor Webber, JAl) were late migrants. One 7 Jul at Clear Creek WA *Allamakee* (CRE) was in an area where it may have nested. Singles heard 22 Jun in *Boone* (MDS) and 7 Jul at Trestle Trail *Polk* (KVS) are hard to categorize. One 31 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) was an early southbound migrant.

**Loggerhead Shrike:** More reports than most recent years including reports from at least four sites in *Iowa*, two sites in *Ringgold* (one with a family group, AB), a family group in *Guthrie* (DTh, CW), and sites in *Appanoose*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Decatur*, and *Plymouth* (eBird, m.ob.).

**White-eyed Vireo:** Most reports

were from Croton and Donnellson units and near Argyle *Lee* (eBird). Other reports came from Farmington Unit *Van Buren*, Fox Hills WA *Wapello*, and Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (eBird). Most: 4 on 16 Jun at Croton Unit *Lee* (CRE).

**Bell's Vireo:** Mostly singles from 28 counties scattered throughout Iowa (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 7 on 2 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Mostly one or 2 from 53 counties from throughout Iowa (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 7 on 8 Jun at Four Mile Creek Greenbelt *Polk* (KVS, SCS).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Late migrants, both 1 Jun, at Harmon Lake WA *Winnebago* (Richard Sayles) and Kettleston Hogsback WA *Dickinson* (LAS, JDJ) tie the third latest record.

**Bank Swallow:** Most: 55 on 24 Jun at Chris Larsen P *Woodbury* (AR) and 45 on 2 Jun at Gitchie Manitou SPre *Lyons* (SFi).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Most 55 on 28 Jul at Montrose *Lee* (James Taylor).

**Cliff Swallow:** Numerous reports of 100 or more. Most: 1050 on 14 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

**Tufted Titmouse:** Mostly reports of one or 2 from 34 counties mainly in eastern Iowa but west to *Fremont* and *Pottawattamie* (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 7 on 16 Jun at Dolliver Memorial SP *Webster* (AR) and 27 Jun at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (EW, JNw).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** One 16 Jun near Boone *Boone* (Larry Dau).

**Brown Creeper:** All: singles 1 Jun at Puddle Jumper Trail *Sioux*

(GS) and 8 Jul at Coralville L *Johnson* (JDJ) were away from where it is normally found in summer.

**Sedge Wren:** Up to 10 were found in 47 counties (eBird, m.ob.) with 22 on 31 Jul at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (SCS) the most.

**Marsh Wren:** Up to 10 were found in 31 counties, mostly in the northern half of Iowa but south to *Fremont* (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 16 at Dan Green Sl *Clay* and 17 at Trumbull L *Clay* (JDJ), both on 13 Jul.

**Carolina Wren:** Mostly one or 2 were found in 26 counties, mainly in the southern half of Iowa but north to *Allamakee* and *Dickinson* (eBird, m.ob.).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Up to 4 were found in 38 counties, mostly in southern and eastern Iowa but north to *Sioux* and *Dickinson* (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 7 on 13 Jun at Swiss Valley Nat Pre *Dubuque* (TM) and 16 Jun at Viking Lake SP *Montgomery* (KH).

**Veery:** All: one 3 Jun at Driftless Area NWR *Clayton* (BR), 3 on 3 Jun at Dow Preserve *Linn* (JF), 3 on 4 Jun at Amana Timber *Iowa* (JF), one 6 Jun at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (BCC), one 7 Jun at Matsell Bridge WA *Linn* (JF), 2 on 8 Jun at Beam Woods *Jones* (CRE), 3 on 16 Jun and one 28 Jun at Backbone SP *Delaware* (AB, RJT), one 29 Jun in *Marshall* (Andy Spellman), and one 3 Jul at Cairo Woods *Louisa* (KJM).

**Swainson's Thrush:** Late migrants were singles 1 Jun at Elm L *Wright* (SJD) and 2 Jun at Trestle Trail *Polk* (KVS) and in *Spencer Clay* (LAS).

**Wood Thrush:** Mostly one or 2 were found in 47 counties through-

out Iowa but mainly in the eastern half of the state (eBird, m.ob.).

**Northern Mockingbird:** Reports were mostly of 1–3 birds from 17 counties mainly in the southern half of Iowa but north to *Dubuque* (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 6 on 16 Jun at Amana *Iowa* (DRa).

**Cedar Waxing:** Reported from 68 counties from throughout Iowa (eBird, m.ob.). Most reports were of fewer than 10 individuals but numerous larger groups were reported. These include 66 on 1 Jun at Sylvan Runkel SP *Monona* (Ed Brogie), 30 on 1 Jun at Terra P *Polk* (KVS, SCS), and 30 on 1 Jun near Hartley *O'Brien* (JDJ).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** Up to 5 in 18 counties largely in southeastern Iowa and all with previous records (eBird). Most: 10 each on 16 Jul in *Washington* (Nelson Weber) and 23 Jul along Swan Lake Rd *Johnson* (Mark Gonzalez).

**Red Crossbill:** For the third summer in the past four years, Red Crossbills were found in Iowa. Four reports of what appeared to be mostly juvenile birds, probably from populations west of Iowa: 2 on 16 Jun in Council Bluffs *Pottawattamie* (Laurie Anderson-ph, *fide* TMH), up to 12 on 20, 21 Jun at Orange City *Sioux* (Dan Reinking-ph), 5 on 23 Jun near Webb *Clay* (*fide* CW-ph), and one 25 Jul in Ames *Story* (William Crow *fide* Jennifer Owen).

**Pine Siskin:** Up to 5 on 1, 5 Jun, 2 Jul in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* included at least a pair and fledglings from a nest there in May (PH, CJF). One 3 Jun along the North Iowa Area Community College trail north of Mason City (PH). Others were sin-

gles 1–10 Jun at Norwalk *Warren* (JG), one 6 Jun in Sioux City *Woodbury* (DTa), one 7 Jun on the ISU campus *Story* (SSP), and one 9, 15 Jun in Greene *Butler* (Bruce Burroughs).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** From 1–6 in 41 counties from throughout the state. Most: 10 at Chichaqua Bottoms *Polk* 23 Jun (EEO) and again 21 Jul (Ulrike Grimaldi).

**Lark Sparrow:** From 1–5 in 45 counties scattered throughout the state (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 14 on 20 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** All reports from northern border counties: 3 on 1 Jun at Kettleston Hogsback WA *Dickinson* (JDJ, LAS), and singles 5 Jun at Freda Haffner Kettlehole SPre *Dickinson* (JAI), 26 Jun near Milford *Dickinson* (DAS), 1 Jul at Peterson Prairie *Lyon* (SFi), and 26 Jul near Lake Mills *Worth* (MH).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Mostly 1–3 in 22 counties, mainly in the eastern half of Iowa but west to *Dickinson*, *Mills*, and *Page* (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 22 on 20 Jun at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (Jim Durbin) and 24 on 29 Jun at Indiangrass Hills *Iowa* (JMc).

**Savannah Sparrow:** Mostly reports of one or 2 in 20 counties mainly in the northern half of Iowa but south to *Fremont* and *Washington* (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 5 on 27 Jun at Big Creek SP *Polk* (CW).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Mostly reports of 1–5 in 27 counties, nearly all in the northern half of Iowa but south to *Louisa* (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 11 on 13 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (JDJ).

**Eastern Towhee:** Most reports were of 1–5 from 59 counties throughout Iowa (eBird, m.ob.). Al-

though somewhat secretive, the species is common and widespread in Iowa.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Other than one report from *Pottawattamie*, reports, mostly of one or 2, were from 14 counties east of a line from *Webster* to *Ringgold* (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 6 on 16 Jun at Croton Unit *Lee* (CRE).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Mostly reports of 1–5 in 32 counties, mainly in the northern half of Iowa and especially in the Prairie Pothole Region. A few were found south to Forney L and Riverton WA *Fremont* (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 45 on 13 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (JDJ).

**Bobolink:** Reports, mostly of 1–5, came from 57 counties including several south to the Missouri border (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 20 on 6 Jul at East Amana *Iowa* (DRa).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** With reports from eight of nine western border counties (eBird), this species clearly is found statewide.

**Western Meadowlark:** With reports from *Dubuque*, *Clinton*, *Muscatine*, and *Louisa* in eastern Iowa (eBird), like the previous species, Western Meadowlark is also found from border to border.

**Orchard Oriole:** Most reports were of 1–5 and came from 55 counties from throughout Iowa (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 11 on 10 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SCS) and 12 on 30 Jun from near Hospers *Sioux* (JDJ).

**Great-tailed Grackle:** Reports, mostly of 1–5, came from 13 counties scattered around the state including traditional sites such as Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* and Dan Green Sl *Clay* as well as new sites like West



Des Moines *Dallas* (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 65 on 15 Jul at Secret L *Fremont* (WRS).

**Ovenbird:** Most reports were of one or 2 from 26 counties scattered across all of Iowa (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 11 on 14 Jun at Donnellson Unit *Lee* (MP) and 13 on 3 Jul at Cairo Woods *Louisa* (KJM).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** All: one 23 Jun at Coon Creek WA *Winneshiek* (DAS).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Reports were of one or 2 from 11 counties east of a line from *Winneshiek* to *Decatur* (eBird, m.ob.).



Common Yellowthroat, Big Creek State Park, Polk, 27 June 2019. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** From 1–4 were found in *Allamakee*, *Dubuque*, *Johnson*, *Lee*, *Linn*, and *Van Buren* (eBird, m.ob.). Most reports were from Yellow River SF, Mines of Spain, and Shimek SF.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** All: singles 3 Jul at Cairo Woods *Louisa* (KJM) and 25 Jul near Burlington *Des Moines* (K. Gustafson). They may have summered or been early migrants.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Mostly one or 2 were found in 18 counties, mainly along the Mississippi R and

its major tributaries (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 14 on 8 Jun at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (JMc) and 15 on 29 Jun at Rock Creek P *Clinton* (KJM).

**Tennessee Warbler:** Five reports on 1 and 2 Jun (eBird, m.ob.). Last: one 4 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Storv* (WO) and one 16 Jun in *Madison* (SBa).

**Nashville Warbler:** All: singles 1 Jun in Kettleson Hogsback WA *Dickinson* (JDJ) and 13 Jun in Des Moines *Polk* (KVS, SCS). The latter bird was a record late date. The two reports constitute the second and third summer records in 10 years.

**Mourning Warbler:** All: three reports of late migrants; one 2 Jun at Gitchie Manitou SP *Lyon* (SF), 2 on 2 Jun in Spencer *Clay* (LAS), and 2 from 2–8 Jun at Beam Woods *Jones* (CRE).



Yellow Warbler, Spark's Cemetery Area, Boone, 15 June 2019. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

**Kentucky Warbler:** Mostly one or 2 found in 13 counties east of a line from *Allamakee* to *Decatur* (eBird, m.ob.). West of there, 3 were in Waubonsie SP *Fremont* and 2 were in Lewis and Clark Monument P *Pottawattamie* (both 8 Jun, DTa). Most: 8 on 28 Jun in the Farmington Unit *Van Buren* (EW JNw) and 10 on

3 Jul at Cairo Woods *Louisa* (KJM).

**Hooded Warbler:** All: singles 6 Jun at Ashworth P *Polk* (JB), 8, 30 Jun at Badger Creek RA *Madison* (SBa), 22, 30 Jun at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (JMc, CHa), 1 Jul at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (Fawn Bowden), and 7 Jul at Brown's Woods *Polk* (JDJ).

**American Redstart:** Common to abundant throughout Iowa with reports from 57 counties (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 39 on 6 Jun at Eagle Point P *Dubuque* (KJM).

**Cerulean Warbler:** Most reports came from Yellow River SF/Effigy Mounds NM *Allamakee* (eBird, m.ob.) and Mines of Spain *Dubuque* (TM, et al.). Other reports came from Driftless Area NWR *Clayton* (BR), Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF, et al.), Trestle Trail *Polk* (KVS), and Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (JMc). Most: 8 on 5 Jul at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (RGo).

**Northern Parula:** Reports were of 1–4 from 20 counties east of a line from *Allamakee* to *Boone* and south to Missouri. The only report west of there was in *Fremont* (eBird, m.ob.).

**Magnolia Warbler:** All: one 2 Jun in Jordan Creek P *Polk* (RJT).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** All: one 5 Jun at Lakeside Lab *Dickinson* (NPB) was late.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** All on 1 Jun: singles in *Hardin* (TSS) and at Kettleson Hogsback WA *Dickinson* (JDJ, LAS) and 4 at Anderson L *Hamilton* (SJD).

**Palm Warbler:** All: one 25 Jun at Lower Morse Lake WA *Wright* (RGo, details) was Iowa's first ever summer report and a record late date.

**Pine Warbler:** All: one 4 Jun in

Lick Creek Unit *Lee* (DAS).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** Other than 3 on 1 Jun at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (Susan & Yvonne Nixon), all reports were one or 2 in *Clayton*, *Dubuque*, *Johnson*, *Jones*, *Polk*, *Scott*, and *Van Buren* (eBird, m.ob.) where expected. One 24 Jun in Ames *Story* (EEO) was unusual both for its date and location.

**PRAIRIE WARBLER:** Continuing birds from spring; one was at Croton Unit *Lee* 9 Jun (JF, BCC, MHB, ph) and 2 were there 16 Jun (CRE, JMc).

**Summer Tanager:** Reports, mostly of singles, came from 18 counties clumped as follows: along the western border, *Boone*, *Madison*, *Polk*, and *Story* in central Iowa, in southern Iowa, and *Allamakee* in northeastern Iowa (eBird, m.ob.). Most: 7 on 27 Jun at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (EW, JNw).

**Scarlet Tanager:** Most reports were of one or 2 and came from 44 counties from throughout Iowa (eBird, m.ob.).

**Blue Grosbeak:** Reports of one or 2 came from 26 counties (eBird, m.ob.). Besides the expected reports from western and southeastern Iowa and the increasing number from recently occupied counties in east-central (*Johnson*, *Linn*, *Black Hawk*), north-central (*Cerro Gordo*), and central Iowa (*Story*, *Boone*), reports from *Franklin* and *Humboldt* seemed to be new locations.

**PAINTED BUNTING:** All: one 13 Jun north of Sioux City in *Plymouth* (Kathy Coffin-ph) was a rare find and the fourth summer record for Iowa.

**Dickcissel:** This species is very

common statewide except in the northeastern corner of Iowa (eBird, m.ob.). I received three reports from *Winneshiek* (Karl Fliris, DAS, SD), four from *Fayette* (PDBS, CKr, Kris and Craig Rash), and one from *Allamakee* (Dean Hester). Most: 50 on 22 Jun at Owego WA *Woodbury* (Rex Rundquist), 50 on at Haynie SI *Mills* (GS), and 49 on 1 Jul at Peterson Prairie *Lyon* (SFi).



*Dickcissel, Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson, 2 June 2019. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

## COMMENT

This report includes a total of 178 species, somewhat more than recent reports. This is partly due to finding more Casual and Accidental species than usual, the somewhat higher total of late spring migrants that were found this summer, and because I chose to include a few species in the report that I don't normally include. A total of 51 additional species were reported to me as having been found during the summer and two other typically hard-to-find species, Greater Prairie-Chicken and Barn Owl, almost certainly were present but were missed. This gives a total of 231 species that probably occurred in Iowa during the summer season, somewhat more than the average of about 225 in recent years. Six species that have been found at least five of the past 10 years, Northern Pintail, White-faced Ibis, Snowy Egret, Black-necked Stilt, Swainson's Hawk, and Bewick's Wren, were not found this summer. All of these species except Bewick's Wren were seen in Iowa during the spring season (Langan 2019).

As has been typical for the last several years, I received a tremendous amount of data to try to summarize. I received more than 50,000 reports on eBird, 580 from the IOU listserve, and another 2,000 reports that were sent directly to me. I am indebted to Ann Johnson who filtered the eBird data base down to a more manageable 37,000 reports. Steve Dinsmore and Paul Skrade helped me in clarifying a number of other reports. To those individuals and the hundreds of others who took the time to submit their reports, I am grateful for your efforts. Without you, this report would not be possible.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Danny Akers	DAK	Tony Moline	TM
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Sharon Bauer	SBa	Shane Patterson	SSP
Neil Bernstein	NPB	Mark Proescholdt	MP
John Bissell	JB	Mike Rabenberg	MRa
Aaron Brees	AB	Dan Ray	DRa
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James L. Fuller	JLF	Greg Steggerda	GS
Jay Gilliam	JG	Matt Stephenson	MDS
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Jeremy Klatt	JK	Danelle Waters	DWa
Craig Kruse	CKr	Torin Waters	TW
James McCoy	JMc	Clayton Will	CW
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## LITERATURE CITED

Langan, C. 2019. Field reports—spring 2019. *Iowa Bird Life* 89:101–127.

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# Iowa Ornithologists' Union Fall Meeting Summary

*Maria Story*

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union members convened 23-25 August at Central College in Pella for the fall 2019 meeting. It was also move-in weekend for incoming freshmen.

Friday night, members gathered to catch up, meet new friends, and watch nature films presented by Tim Barksdale. On Saturday, members split to attend five field trips. Red Rock Reservoir was the main birding region for field trips, but some members also headed northwest to Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge for grassland species. Thanks to excellent coordination and planning, a special mudflats trip used mud boats for up-close viewing of shorebirds. Fewer species were seen than expected and this was thought to be due to a lull in migration.

On Saturday afternoon, three excellent talks were presented at Central College. Tyler Harms from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) discussed a project involving banding Trumpeter Swans and monitoring their migration patterns. Todd Gosselink from the Iowa DNR talked about management of Lake Red Rock to balance flood mitigation with wildlife habitat. Rachel Vanausdall from Iowa State University discussed her research on Least Sandpipers and the duration of their stopovers during fall migration at Saylorville Reservoir.

Dinner was a buffet in the Graham Hall Conference center with us viewing *Battle on the Booming Grounds* by Tim Barksdale and hearing his presentation "Filming the End of Nature".

Sunday morning offered more excellent birding. A total of at least 119 species were seen by 90 participants. There were 20 new attendees at this IOU meeting.

Throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday, nature films were shown at meeting headquarters at Central College, thanks to Tim Barksdale. Titles included: *Tale of the Tides*, by Mark Deeble and Victoria Stone, *Secret Life of Cats* by Allison Argo, *March of the Penguins* by Luc Jacquet, *Charles Darwin and the Tree of Life* by David Attenborough, *Winged Migration* by Jacques Perrin, Jacques Cluzaud, and Michel Debats, *Adventures with Birdman*, *Episode Ecuador—Jocotoco Antpitta* by Tim Barksdale and *Battle on the Booming Grounds* by Tim Barksdale.

On a personal note, this was my second IOU meeting. I am relatively new to birdwatching and it's wonderful to have so many experienced and friendly people excited to share their knowledge and experience with beginners. I have sincerely enjoyed attending both meetings and am looking forward to next spring!



Registered Attendance – 90 (20 first time attendees)

Ames: Anna Buckardt Thomas, Stephen Dinsmore, Tim Garner, Tyler Harms, Kevin Murphy, Eric Ollie, Bill Thomas, Rachel Vanausdall  
Ankeny: Nancy Corona, Heather Sanders  
Bloomfield: Richard Tebbs  
Brandon: Wendy VanDeWalle  
Cambridge: Mark Carson, Shelley Carson  
Cedar Falls: Alan Brown, Carol Brown, Joel Haack, Linda Haack, Bruce Plakke, Linda Plakke  
Cedar Rapids: Michael Becker  
Coralville: Richard Tetrault, Gerry Tetrault, Donna Warner  
Corydon: Mary Ellen Miller  
Des Moines: John Cecil, Calliope Cecil, Diane Dentlinger, Stuart Sparkman, Karen Viste-Sparkman  
Elma: Mary Jo Hartogh  
Fairfield: Gay Chapman, Therese Cummiskey, Scott Hartley, Gwyn Hartley, Ron Stakland  
Fort Dodge: Judy Garton  
Gibbsville: Pip Fisher, Carol Fisher, Lincoln Fisher  
Grimes: John Bissell  
Hospers: Joe Jungers, Karla Jungers, Abbie Portz  
Ida Grove: Don Poggensee  
Iowa City: Gerry Denning, Barbara Fisher-Krueger, James Huntington, Terri Macey, Linda Quinn, Maria Story  
Johnston: Kris Bossard, Dennis Thompson, Cecille Thompson  
Liscomb: Mark Proescholdt  
Madrid: Clayton Will  
Mason City: Paul Hertzell, Mary Hodak, Jeremy Klatt, Bruce McKee  
Muscatine: Gerald White  
Nevada: Hank Zalatel, Linda Zalatel  
North Liberty: Barry Buschelman, Rick Hollis, Torin Waters, Danelle Waters  
Norwalk: Ann Johnson  
Ogden: Doug Harr  
Orange City: Sue Kooiker  
Oskaloosa: Diane Crookham-Johnson  
Otley: Matthew Kaye  
Packwood: Julie Johnston  
Polk City: Mike Miller, Luke Miller  
Sioux City: Paul Roisen  
Solon: Sandy Eads, Mark Rolfes, Deb Rolfes  
Urbandale: Thomas Dougherty  
Waterloo: Candace Havely, Francis Moore, Tom Stone, Tommy Stone  
West Des Moines: Robert Cecil  
Winterset: Sharon Bauer  
Rockford, IL: Sheryl Galvez  
Choteau, MT: Tim Barksdale  
Plainview, NY: Lynne Portnoy

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# Iowa Ornithologists' Union Business Meeting

24 August 2019

**The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) business meeting** was held at Graham Hall at Central College in Pella, Iowa. President Dennis Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. Attending were Vice President Pip Fisher; Secretary Sharon Bauer; and Directors-at-large Curt Nelson, Diane Dentlinger, Thomas Dougherty, and Kevin Murphy; and members of the organization.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes from the 4 May 2019 spring meeting have been published on the IOU website. Hank Zaletel moved to approve the minutes as published. Stuart Sparkman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dennis Thompson gave the treasurer's report as submitted to him by Treasurer Mary Beth Hunt. Our current checking and savings balance is \$90,464.10. Publications shows an increase in spending to \$9,959.61, which reflects the many *Iowa Bird Life* issues that have been published so far this year.

**Membership Coordinator's Report:** Cecille Thompson reported our current membership for 2019 is 404 with 43 new members this year.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Projects Committee:** Joe Jungers reported that the committee has awarded \$4,999.00 to 10 projects this year. Three of the projects were fully funded, seven partially funded.

**Events Committee:** The com-

mittee has planned several upcoming birding events kicking off 28 September at Grammer Grove Hawk Watch. The committee is planning a trip to Pool 8 and 9 on the Mississippi River on 9 November with target birds of Tundra Swans and other waterfowl. The first week of June the committee will coordinate an out of state trip to Michigan. The multi-day trip highlights would be Kirtland's Warblers, Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, and nesting warblers in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

**Publications Committee:** Ann Johnson reported on the continued work on *Iowa Bird Life* with two issues coming out soon. By the end of the year the *Iowa Bird Life* publications will be up to date thanks to the diligent work by Karen Viste-Sparkman, the committee members, and field reports editors. They ask for photo submissions for the publication.

**Records Committee:** Paul Hertzel presented a summary of the recent actions by the records committee. Four additional records have been accepted recently for 2018, bringing the total accepted records for 2018 to 41. Currently they have accepted nine records for 2019. Two records for 2019 were not accepted and three are still in review. The committee reminds the organization members to document your birds.

**Library/Historical Committee:** Hank Zaletel reported that he has received several boxes of material from

Des Moines Audubon and has passed them on to ISU to be added to the avIAN digital archives. He has also received material from the family of Pete Wickham and is working to get a release from the estate so those materials could also be digitized for the collection. The Library/Historical committee would welcome new members.

## OLD BUSINESS

The IOU has received \$43,852.96 from the estate of Marilyn Irey. The Board has decided to add funds to this amount to bring the total to \$50,000.00 and invest in a 1-year certificate of deposit allowing time to establish the best plan for use of the monies. The membership is asked to submit suggestions to Denny with the goal of having a plan to present to the membership by the spring 2020 meeting.

Steve Dinsmore updated the board on the Breeding Bird Atlas publication and reports about 15 accounts are left to complete it. All maps and data are available online. He will be in communication with the board as progress continues on the Breeding Bird Atlas.

## NEW BUSINESS

Doug Harr reported that the Boone County Trail Committee has proposed a bike trail through the middle of Ledges State Park. Big Blue-stem Audubon Society is opposing the location of the trail and is asking our membership to support them by writing letters to the trail committee in opposition to the current plan.

No location has been chosen for the spring 2020 meeting. If you have suggestions or would like to assist with planning contact Pip or Denny.

The membership and communications committees are looking for interested members to join their ranks. If either of the committees sounds like an area of your expertise, contact Denny.

The ISU Special Collections and University Archives is hosting an opening reception and talk on 24 September 2019 at the Ames Public Library. The talk marks the opening of a new exhibition titled "*Our trip... will be long remembered*": *Following the Trail of A Bird Watching Road Trip*, highlighting the 1924 trip of Walter M. Rosene Sr. and Walter Bennett.

Hank Zaletel moved to adjourn the meeting and Francis Moore seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Bauer, secretary

# Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board of Directors Meeting

24 August 2019

**The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) board of directors meeting** was held at Graham Hall at Central College in Pella, Iowa. President Dennis Thompson called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. Attending were Vice President Pip Fisher; Secretary Sharon Bauer; and Directors-at-large Curt Nelson, Eric Ollie, Diane Dentlinger, Thomas Dougherty, and Kevin Murphy. Guests attending were Cecille Thompson, Paul Hertzell, Ann Johnson, Hank Zaletel, Rick Hollis, and Steve Dinsmore. Mary Beth Hunt was absent.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes from the 4 May 2019 spring meeting have been published on the IOU website. Pip Fisher moved to approve the minutes as published. Curt Nelson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dennis Thompson gave the treasurer's report as submitted to him by Treasurer Mary Beth Hunt. Our current checking and savings balance is \$90,464.10. Publications shows an increase in spending to \$9,959.61, which reflects the many *Iowa Bird Life* issues that have been published so far this year. At this time, dues are down compared to the same time last year. Because of timing, we should hit our budget at the end of the year.

We have received \$43,852.96 from the estate of Marilyn Irey. After some discussion, it was decided to take some time to come up with the best plan for use of this gift. Diane Dentlinger made a motion to add money from our checking/savings to bring the total up to \$50,000 and in-

vest in a 1-year certificate of deposit. Kevin Murphy seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The year will be used to gather ideas. Members will be asked to submit ideas. Denny will gather those ideas and proceed with a board meeting including all committee chairs.

**Membership Coordinator's Report:** Cecille Thompson reported our current membership for 2019 is 404.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership Committee:** The committee is currently looking for new members and discussing ideas to retain and attract IOU members.

**Projects Committee:** Joel Haack has been added to the projects committee. Joe Jungers will head the committee as the new chairperson.

**Library/Historical Committee:** Hank Zaletel reports that he has received several boxes of material from Des Moines Audubon and has passed them on to ISU to be added to the avIAN digital archives. He has also received material from the family of Pete Wickham and is working to get a release from the estate so those materials could also be digitized for the collection.

**Events Committee:** Eric Ollie reports many upcoming birding events kicking off 28 September at Grammer Grove Hawk Watch. The event begins at 8:00 a.m.; bring a chair and plan to stay for a short time or all day. The committee is planning a trip to Pool 8 and 9 on the Mississippi River on 9 November with target birds of Tundra Swans and other

waterfowl. The first week of June the committee will coordinate an out of state trip to Michigan. The multi-day trip highlights would be Kirtland's Warblers, Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, and nesting warblers in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

**Publications Committee:** Ann Johnson reports on the continued work on *Iowa Bird Life*. By the end of the year the publication will be back on track.

**Records Committee:** Paul Hertzell presented a summary of the recent actions by the records committee. Four additional records have been accepted from 2018, bringing the total accepted records for 2018 to 41. Currently they have accepted nine records for 2019. Two records for 2019 were not accepted and three are still in review.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Steve Dinsmore reported approximately 15 accounts are left to complete the Breeding Bird Atlas publication. All maps and data are available online. He will be in communication with the board as progress continues on the Breeding Bird Atlas.

## NEW BUSINESS

Rick Hollis presented a proposal for preparing and providing birding kits to have available from our organization to reach people interested in beginning birding. Pip Fisher made a motion that we move forward on gathering additional information and when enough data are available Denny would appoint a committee to proceed further. Eric Ollie seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The ISU Special Collections and University Archives will have an ex-

hibition this coming year inspired and in celebration of the avIAN project. They are holding an opening reception and talk on 24 September 2019 at the Ames Public Library and would like the IOU to promote this event to our members. The talk marks the opening of a new exhibition titled "*Our trip... will be long remembered*": *Following the Trail of A Bird Watching Road Trip*, highlighting the 1924 trip of Walter M. Rosene, Sr. and Walter Bennett. Eric Ollie made a motion to promote this event to our members through our regular communication channels. Curt Nelson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Pip reports we have currently spent \$4,300.00 for the fall 2019 meeting with \$4,000.00 in registrations.

Brian Peer has agreed to be a member to the publications committee. Tom Dougherty made a motion to accept Brian Peer to the publications committee. Eric Ollie seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Dan Rose has agreed to be a member of the events committee. Eric Ollie made a motion to accept Dan Rose to the events committee. Kevin Murphy seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Diane Dentlinger moved to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Murphy seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

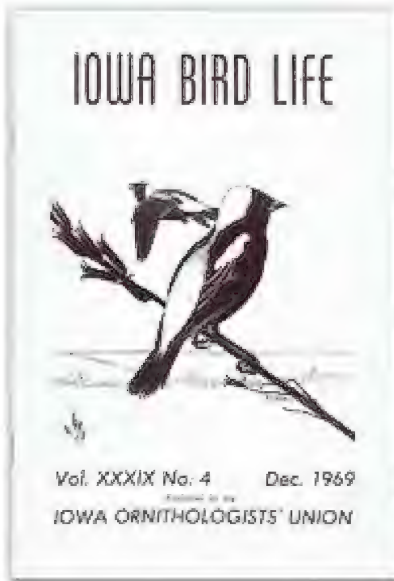
Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Bauer, secretary



## Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore



The December 1969 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* starts with several short articles. In the first, Richard Crawford summarizes the food habits of Mourning Doves in northern Missouri. He found that wheat, green foxtail, and yellow foxtail were by far the dominant food of doves. Mary Lou Petersen describes her first experiences with rheas, a bird she had traveled to Brazil to see. Eldon Bryant outlines his work with monitoring nesting Say's Phoebes. In the early 1960s, he had found them nesting in 21 locations in Plymouth and Sioux counties. By the late 1960s the population had declined greatly and he found only three pairs. Most of the nests had been under small wooden bridges over small creeks but many of these bridges had been replaced with concrete bridges and the birds had to find other nesting sites.

Peter Petersen summarized eight years of data from monitoring bluebird nest boxes in Muscatine County. The number of nests and number of young fledged declined over the years but a total of 426 nestlings were banded. In the last article, Gladys Black provides counts of Turkey Vultures that she saw at Red Rock from August into October 1969. She saw few birds through August but their numbers increased greatly in September with a peak of more than 200 on 5 October, indicating she was seeing birds returning to a migration roost.

The fall migration seemed to have been fairly average with many gulls at Red Rock but few vireos and warblers were seen. Some of the better finds were Little Blue Herons at Shenandoah, a King Rail at Blue Lake, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Sweet's Marsh, and both crossbills in Ames in August. Fred Kent described birding at Coralville Reservoir after the area was flooded by heavy mid-summer rains. Birding was very good with many waders and shorebirds found on the flooded fields. Finally, an article about Iowa naturalist Paul Bartsch includes two photographs that he took of a Magnificent Frigatebird that was found in August 1903 near Burlington. The rest of the article is a brief biography of this talented biologist and his many contributions, both in Iowa and internationally.

646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

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**FRONT COVER PHOTO:** Heermann's Gull, Saylorville Reservoir, *Polk*, 29 July 2019. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.

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